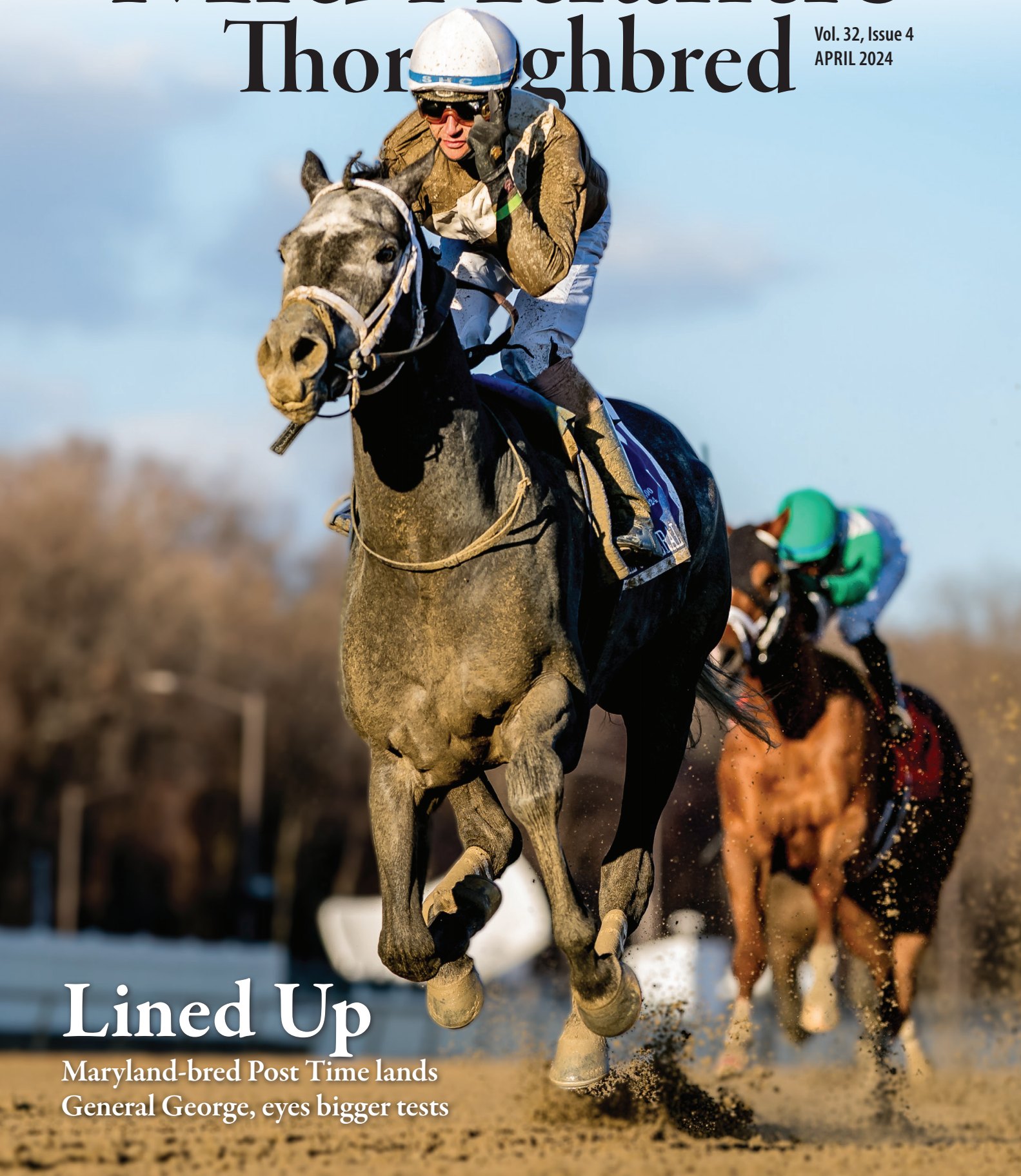
Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Vol. 32, Issue 4
APRIL 2024



Lined Up

Maryland-bred Post Time lands General George, eyes bigger tests

A Merryland "Graduate" Trifecta in Laurel MSW

1-2-3 finish by 3-year-old fillies prepared by our Merryland Training Center

Jim McCue

When trainer Horacio De Paz and New York owners Brian Cohen (Flower Power Stables) and Anthony Gurino (Red Storm Stable) won a $47,000 Maiden Special with Grammy Girl, it marked a sweep by Merryland graduates. The second-place and third-place finishers were both Country Life Racing Partnership runners. Our Maryland-bred Mendelssohn filly Amie's Symphony ran second, and our Audible filly Audibly finished third.

Merryland is a full-service training facility: 5/8ths-mile training track, 100 stalls, 6-horse Puett starting gate, and most importantly, a knowledgeable team headed by resident trainer Sonja Aleksic, supported by veteran riders Milan Milosevic, Brett Owings, Alejandro Bricena and Jose Silva.

Find out what makes Merryland a great place to send your youngsters. Visit us at countrylifefarm.com or call us!

COUNTRY LIFE & MERRYLAND

From Beginning to Winning

Maryland's Oldest Thoroughbred Farm
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
www.countrylifefarm.com
Office 410-879-1952 • Josh Pons 443-807-0644
Mike Pons 410-459-8517 • Christy Holden 410-808-1325

You can register your Maryland-bred anytime.

Save a bundle

if you do it by

May 31st

of its yearling year

MHBA status	By May 31st of yearling year	June 1st or later	Savings
Breeder/Owner Member	**$100**	**$275**	**$175**
Non-member*	**$300**	**$475**	**$175**

Check eligibility and register online at MarylandThoroughbred.com.

Forms for mail-in registration available online at MarylandThoroughbred.com

Maryland-breds must be registered with the MHBA in order to earn bonuses from the Maryland Bred Race Fund Program.

*After you register your first foal, you automatically become a Breeder/Owner member of the MHBA, and every foal thereafter for one year is registered at the Breeder/Owner rate.

(EVERY REGISTRATION INCLUDES A $25 CONTRIBUTION TO THE MHBA'S BACKSTOP PROGRAM)

Got questions?

Call the MHBA at 410-252-2100 or email registrar@marylandthoroughbred.com

Maryland Horse Breeders Association • 321 Main St., Reisterstown, MD 21136

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

— Set List —

Maryland-bred Post Time eyes big year

Four-year-old Post Time becomes a graded stakes winner with a triumph in the General George Stakes for Hillwood Stable and trainer Brittany Russell. The son of Frosted aims for even bigger assignments this year. By Joe Clancy. Page 30

Isaacs built historic breeding powerhouse

A Marylander who also restored the historic Long Branch farm in Virginia, Harry Isaacs impacted Thoroughbred bloodlines for decades to come with stellar decisions. By Eliza McGraw. Page 34

Trackside Laurel Park: Baxter, Ness find success

Miss Harriett and Speedyness post homebred stakes wins for David Baxter and Jamie Ness. By John Piassek. Page 44

Trackside Parx Racing: A breeder's legacy

When he died last summer, Pennsylvania owner/breeder Bill Brady left behind more than a dozen horses. They're doing their best to pay him tribute for trainer Dee Curry and a new owner. By Joe Clancy. Page 52

Steeplechase Times: 100-year-old Hunt Cup hero

Oracle II won two Maryland Hunt Cups, dominated a third (only to be disqualified) and competed in the timber classic six times. The pride of Virginia made an impact. By Joe Clancy. Page 56

— Entries —

The Starting Gate 6

Next Chapters 24
Grandiflora

From the Editor 28
Larry Lederman's voice carries

Loose Rein 59
Peter Silberman's big life included a connection to racehorses

— The Paddock —

Maryland newsletter 61

New Jersey newsletter 67

North Carolina newsletter 71

Pennsylvania newsletter 73

South Carolina newsletter 77

Virginia newsletter 79

West Virginia newsletter 81

Steeplechase newsletter 83

— Evening Stables —

Classifieds 85

Looking Back 86

Past Time 88

On our cover: Post Time and Sheldon Russell storm to victory in Laurel Park's Grade 3 General George Stakes in February. *Photo by Eclipse Sportswire.*

BLOFELD

A remarkable young sire

Blofeld holds his own against the top horses in the country and boasts numbers equal to some of the best stallions ever to stand in the region

$88,094 average earnings per starter

86% winners/starters

21% stakes horses

MURMUR FARM

$5,000 LFSN; Breeders' Cup and Maryland Million nominated
Quality Road–Storm Minstrel, by Storm Cat

Mrs. E. Allen Murray Jr. (410) 836-3491 • 1334 Stafford Road, Darlington, MD 21034
murmurfarm@verizon.net • www.murmurfarm.com

SEND YOUR MARE TO MARYLAND

After she foals here, breed to one of our stallions and your 2024 foal is eligible to be a registered Maryland-bred*

Beginning with 2YOs of 2025, Maryland-sired Maryland-breds earn 40% higher breeder bonuses!

Maryland Stallions for 2024

BARBADOS *(SPEIGHTSTOWN)*
BLOFELD *(QUALITY ROAD)*
BOURBON COURAGE *(LION HEART)*
CUPID *(TAPIT)*
DIVINING ROD *(TAPIT)*
ECLIPTICALSPRALINE *(ECLIPTICAL)*
ENDORSED *(MEDAGLIA D'ORO)*
ENGAGE *(INTO MISCHIEF)*
FIRST MONDAYS *(CURLIN)*
FRIESAN FIRE *(A.P. INDY)*
GALAWI (IRE) *(DUBAWI-Ire)*
GOLDEN LAD *(MEDAGLIA D'ORO)*
GREAT NOTION *(ELUSIVE QUALITY)*
HOLY BOSS *(STREET BOSS)*
HOPPERTUNITY *(ANY GIVEN SATURDAY)*
IRISH WAR CRY *(CURLIN)*
KOBE'S BACK *(FLATTER)*
LONG ON VALUE *(VALUE PLUS)*
LONG RIVER *(A.P. INDY)*
MADEFROMLUCKY *(LOOKIN AT LUCKY)*
MOSLER *(WAR FRONT)*
NOT ABROAD *(NOT FOR LOVE)*
UNCLE LINO *(Uncle Mo)*
V. I. P. TICKET *(WINDSOR CASTLE)*

MARYLAND: IT'S THE PLACE TO BE

*Horses must be registered with the Maryland Horse Breeders Association to be eligible to earn bonuses

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Volume 32, Issue 4

321 Main St., Reisterstown, MD 21136
(410) 252-2100 x116
Fax (888) 616-9797
MidAtlanticTB.com
Facebook.com/Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred

Director of publications: Barrie B. Reightler
breightler@marylandthoroughbred.com

Editor: Joe Clancy
editor@marylandthoroughbred.com
410-392-5867

Associate editor: Cindy Deubler
cdeubler@marylandthoroughbred.com

Editorial assistant: Lydia Williams
lwilliams@marylandthoroughbred.com

Communications manager: John Piassek
jpiassek@marylandthoroughbred.com

Senior writers:
Sean Clancy sean@marylandthoroughbred.com
Tom Law tom@marylandthoroughbred.com

Circulation & member services: Emily Stakem
emily@marylandthoroughbred.com

National advertising: Ken Ward
Ken@TheWardGroupLLC.com

Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred (ISSN 1056-3245) is owned and published monthly with the exception of July by the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, 321 Main Street, Reisterstown, MD 21136. (410) 252-2100; Fax (888) 616-9797. Subscription rate $36 per year. Subscription rate outside the U.S. $91 per year (surface mail), payable by U.S. money order or by bank draft payable in U.S. funds. Canadian GST No. 130277759; C.P.C. IPM No. 0956988. Subscription price included in annual membership dues to the Maryland Horse Breeders Association.

Periodicals postage paid at Lutherville-Timonium, Md. 21093 and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred, 321 Main St., Reisterstown, MD 21136.

Single copies: $5 current issue, plus $4 postage and handling.
$15 Stallion Directory (December issue); $15 Statistical Review (March issue), plus $5 postage and handling. Maryland residents add 6% sales tax.

Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred is mailed to paid subscribers; to licensed owners and trainers in the eight-state region; and to active members of participating breeder associations in the region.

Printed by The Lane Press, Burlington, VT
Printed in the U.S.A.

Copyright 2024 Maryland Horse Breeders Association Inc.

AMERICAN HORSE PUBLICATIONS
PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN EQUINE MEDIA

Anchor and Hope Farm

SUCCESS SPEAKS VOLUMES
CHAMPION-SIRING STALLIONS

BOURBON COURAGE

Lion Heart–Shine Forth, by Carson City

63% winners/starters • $65,960 AE/starter

G2-winning, multiple G1-placed millionaire
Sire of 11 total black-type earners, including

2023 Champion Maryland-Bred Older Male
DOUBLE CROWN ($878,685)

$2,500 LFSN, BC & MM

HOLY BOSS

Street Boss–Holy Grace, by Holy Bull

VERSATILE RUNNERS: STAKES WINNERS LONG & SPRINTING ON DIRT & TURF

Blistering fast Saratoga G2 winner & MG1-placed.
100+ Beyers in three G1s. Earned $771,527.
Eight stakes horses include G3 FIOLO BOSS,
VANCE SCHOLARS (293,470) and

2023 Champion Maryland-Bred 3YO Filly
BOSSERATI

$2,500 LFSN, BC & MM

LONG RIVER

A.P. Indy–Round Pond, by Awesome Again

G3 STAKES HORSE IN FIRST CROP

17 winners from 27 starters including G3 stakes-placed **Azul Por Siempre** (in Chile). Lasix-free G1 winner with 124 Equibase dirt speed figure (highest of any stallion in MD). Multiple SW, 3-times graded stakes-placed, including G1 Jockey Club Gold Cup. Multiple 100+ Beyers.

$1,500 LFSN, BC & MM

anchorhopefarm.com • Port Deposit, MD

Anchor and Hope Farm

443-907-7122 • 443-907-4555

Say It Again

"He's not a big, muscular horse but let me tell you what, horses when they go by they give him space. The persona he gives off or something, horses just back away."
Exercise rider Emma Wolfe, about General George Stakes winner Post Time

"He was on my list. I just didn't have people who would buy him. I didn't have anybody who was looking for a colt. I thought he would be a little bit more than he sold for in the end too. Ellen Charles called and told me she had this Frosted colt she was going to send me and I had to ask her, 'You mean that Frosted?' "
Trainer Brittany Russell, on missing Post Time at the yearling sale and still getting him to train

"Hold on. I'm going to get off a horse so I don't have to worry about where I end up while I talk to you."
Castle Rock Farm's June Hillman, taking a phone call in March

"He's still got that Northern Dancer pony attitude. He might be Northern Dancer."
Hillman, about 24-year-old stallion Rimrod (whose sire Danzig was by Northern Dancer)

Go Figure

3 Consecutive wins at Penn National for South Carolina-bred Tilted Tiara this year. The daughter of Done Talking won Jan. 18 for trainer Bruce Kravets (and was claimed for $4,000), Feb. 2 for Brandon Kulp (and was claimed for $5,000) and Feb. 29 for Tim Kreiser (while risked and not claimed for $8,000). The mini streak made her 7-for-23 lifetime.

5 Wins in as many starts at Charles Town for Elle'sbigseacret this year. The 6-year-old won Jan. 10 and 31, Feb. 23, March 2 and 13 for Built Wright Stables and trainer Raymond Ginter Jr. In seven starts at the West Virginia track this year and last, the son of Secret Circle put up six wins and a second.

Name of the Month

Laddie Dance. Leaf Stable's homebred is by Golden Lad out of Enterprise Value. The 3-year-old gelding's namesake, Milton J. "Laddie" Dance, was a Fasig-Tipton auctioneer for 40 years and operated Maryland's Taylor's Purchase Farm. Dance, who died in 2002, and his wife Jeanne Vance campaigned champion and 1999 Belmont Stakes-G1 winner Lemon Drop Kid. Trainer Robert Leaf Jr. still remembers listening to Dance in the auctioneers' stand. "He was the first auctioneer I ever heard, I was a little kid and I thought it was the coolest thing in the world that a guy could talk like that. He was a great man and I thought I'd pay him a little tribute with this horse." Laddie Dance the horse finished sixth at Laurel Park March 2 and was waiting for turf season to get started. "I think we've figured out he's a turf horse," said Leaf, whose son Robert III is a farrier and also helps run the stable. A daughter of Bellamy Road, Enterprise Value has a yearling filly by Tacitus and was bred to Frosted this year.

2024 Maryland Steeplechase Governor's Cup Series

Presented by FARM CREDIT

2023 Maryland Steeplechase Timber Horse of the the Year: Charles C. Fenwick Jr.'s Royal Ruse, Elizabeth Scully aboard. Photo by Douglas Lees

Sunday, March 17 **Foxhall Farm Cup Team Chase** Butler
Sunday, March 31 **Green Spring Valley Point-to-Point** Hunt Valley
Saturday, April 6 **Elkridge-Harford Point-to-Point** Monkton
Saturday, April 13 **My Lady's Manor** Monkton
Sunday, April 14 **Mount Harmon Wicomico Hunt Point-to-Point** Earleville
Saturday, April 20 **Grand National Steeplechase** Butler
Saturday, April 27 **Maryland Hunt Cup** Glyndon
Sunday, May 19 **Potomac Hunt Races** Poolesville

A Maryland Tradition

www.MarylandSteeplechase.com

Irish Thoroughbred Marketing | Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred | Maryland Horse Breeders Association | Maryland Million

Spending time with Post Time

By Joe Clancy

MAGGIE KIMMITT

Brittany Russell's assistant Emma Wolfe takes Post Time's antics in stride.

Wander up to the turn gap on Fair Hill Training Center's dirt track about 9:40 some random morning and meet a dark gray horse. He'll be standing there – gazing at the starting gate, assessing the traffic on Route 273, pondering what that water tower is all about, eyeballing potential rivals and taking puffy breaths like he's collecting scents. His rider won't even have her hands on the reins.

Old campaigner? Future lead pony? No. And definitely not.

The sentry is Post Time, Maryland's top older horse, winner of Laurel Park's General George Stakes-G3 in February and well-known misbehaver. Trained by Brittany Russell for Ellen Charles' Hillwood Stable, the 4-year-old has won seven of eight lifetime starts and earned $417,910. He captured a Maryland-bred championship as a 2-year-old and is after bigger prizes this year. He's also semi-famous for being a troublemaker on (and off) the track, even if he doesn't look like it.

His hands-off-the-reins rider, Emma Wolfe, lives in Post Time's world and tried to explain how it works in there.

"We have an interesting relationship," she said. "I've been

MY LADY'S MANOR STEEPLECHASE RACES

APRIL 13, 2024

LIVE MUSIC | FOOD TRUCKS | VENDORS

WWW.MANORRACES.COM

Maryland's Only Waterfront Point-to-Point

April 14, 2024

10-4

♦ ♦ ♦

10 Races – Timber, Flat & Pony, Sidesaddle Races, plus Field Master Chases!

Tailgating • Food Court

Open-Air Tavern

Market Place

Carriage & Hound Parade

Mount Harmon, Earleville, MD

MountHarmon.org

around horses for 27 years and he's probably the smartest horse I've ever been around. He's just cool. He's a jerk too, but none of it is malicious."

Wolfe can pull up video clips on her phone of a leaping, plunging, flying Post Time that would make Statler Wright grab mane.

"The longest I've been in the air is probably seven seconds, straight up, straight up, but I'm never worried that he's going to flip because he's super athletic," she said. "You just go with him. He's a colt and he has gotten a lot better. He enjoys life and I let him because happy horses run better."

The morning routine started simply enough. From a stall in the back with a big, west-facing window, Post Time waited for Wolfe. She checked the tack, led him to the main barn, got a leg up on the walking ring and off they went. Normal enough. Ten steps later, Post Time took off like he was leaving a starting gate and you realized why the others in the set left the barn early. Settled from the outburst, Post Time and Wolfe turned out the door and toward the horse path. Post Time high-fived the air like Zenyatta across the parking lot, then walked to the track. Some mornings involve leaps like those on video, but this one was quiet. On cue, he stopped at the gap as the typical racetrack commotion orbited him.

MAGGIE KIMMITT

"He'd stand here for 20 minutes," Wolfe said from his back. "Yesterday, it was 45 because there was a delay, and I didn't see any point walking all the way back to the barn."

Horses and people came and went. The gate action heated up. Conversations swirled, in English, Spanish, Spanglish too. Post Time stood. Stood some more.

Wolfe wasn't waiting for the track to quiet down – Post Time trains the same no matter how many horses are out there – she was just waiting. Because Post Time likes to wait. Fifteen minutes later, kicking like she was riding a fat pony, Wolfe let him know it was time. They galloped a quick 1½ miles and pulled up for the walk home.

"Once he goes, he gallops around there and tries to pull my arms off," Wolfe said. "On the way home, I let him eat some grass and I usually have to get the hotwalker or someone to come get me because he doesn't want to go back in the stall."

As much as his people would love to give it to him, Post Time doesn't get turnout time – for one, he's wearing expensive glue-on shoes; for two, a dumb injury in a round pen seems risky – so Wolfe doesn't mind the lengthy ride.

"He just wants to stay out as long as he can, and I don't blame him for that," she said. "He can't really tell us. I guess this is how."

Post Time's antics beg the old Thoroughbred question. Do talented horses have more personality than others or do people pay more attention to talented horses, which leads to more personality? It's impossible to answer, really, but Wolfe figures the sass can't hurt Post Time's racing career.

"We let good horses be themselves, right? If he wasn't this good, he would be a gelding number one so he wouldn't act like this as much and we wouldn't give him as much time," she said. "I think it helps him have a heart to win. A horse with not a lot of personality doesn't have a whole lot of heart. I don't know. I just find that the good ones always have something. Ability gets horses so far, and then heart really matters." ■

For more on Post Time and his General George win, see page 30.

April 20th
Butler, Maryland
Timber Racing at its Finest

121st Grand National STEEPLECHASE

www.GrandNationalSteeplechase.com
Gates open at Noon. First event at 12 pm.

MHC EARLY NOMINATIONS

Nominated horse (owner/trainer)

AWESOME ADRIAN (Nancy A. Reed; Katherine S. Neilson)
BLACKHALL (IRE) (Kinross Farm; Joseph G. Davies)
GOODOLDTIMES (IRE) (Armata Stables; Mark Beecher)
GREAT ROAD (Kinross Farm; Joseph G. Davies)
HAFAJAY (GB) (Mrs. George L. Ohrstrom Jr.; Richard L. Valentine)
MR. FINE THREADS (Armata Stables; Joseph G. Davies)
OUR FRIEND (IRE) (Armata Stables; Joseph G. Davies)
QUEENS EMPIRE (IRE) (Riverdee Stable; Jack Fisher)
ROCKET STAR RED (Lucy A. Goelet; Mark Beecher)
ROYAL RUSE (Charles C. Fenwick Jr.; Sanna Neilson)
SHOOTIST (Upland Partners; Todd McKenna)
VINTAGE VINNIE (IRE) (Armata Stables; Joseph G. Davies)
WAGNER (IRE) (Merribelle Stables LLC; Blythe Miller Davies)
WITHOUTMOREADO (IRE) (Irvin S. Naylor; Katherine S. Neilson)

Save the last Saturday in April for The Greatest Timber Race in the World: $100,000 MARYLAND HUNT CUP

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024 • **MarylandHuntCup.com** • Follow us on Facebook & Instagram • *TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE*

Milestones

Announced:

By 1/ST Racing, purse increases for this year's Preakness Stakes-G1 and Dinner Party Stakes-G3 at Baltimore's Pimlico Race Course as part of a $25 million racing series in 2024 and 2025. The Preakness, second jewel of racing's Triple Crown, will be worth $2 million while the Dinner Party, a turf stakes for 3-year-olds and upward, will carry a purse of $500,000. Both races, slated for May 18 this year, will be part of a series connecting the Preakness Day races with the new California Crown Day at California's Santa Anita Sept. 28 and the 2025 Pegasus World Cup Day at Florida's Gulfstream Park. The program includes more than $12.5 million in purses and $7.5 million in bonus incentives. A horse who sweeps the 2024 Preakness, 2024 California Crown-G1 and 2025 Pegasus World Cup-G1 will receive a $5 million bonus. A horse who sweeps the 2024 Dinner Party, John Henry-G1 and Pegasus Turf-G1 will receive a $2.5 million bonus. The Pimlico increases bring the Preakness Day purses to a record $3.3 million.

Approved:

By the Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Association, a 75-day live racing season at Delaware Park racetrack in 2024. The track, which opened in 1937, starts this year's season May 15 and will run through Oct. 12. Racing will occur on a Wednesday, Thursdsay, Saturday format for most of the season. Friday cards will be added June 7 and 14, Aug. 2 and 9, Sept. 13, 20, 27, Oct. 4 and 11. There will be no racing Thursday, July 11. Daily post time is 12:30 p.m. One Sunday card, July 7, will be part of the schedule and showcase the $500,000 Delaware Handicap-G2 (its first Sunday running since 2009). The track's signature race will be part of a full weekend of stakes including the Delaware Oaks-G3 July 6, Robert G. Dick Memorial-G3 and several other stakes. Last year, Idiomatic won the Delaware Handicap on the way to an Eclipse Award as champion older female. Delaware's 32nd Owners' Day is slated for Sept. 14. Total live handle at the 85-day meet in 2023 increased 7 percent to $152.3 million, with the daily average handle rising 9.6 percent to $1.6 million. "We want to carry the positive momentum established last year into this upcoming season," said chief financial officer Kevin DeLucia. "The horsemen, commission and management have continued working together to ensure competitive, fair and safe racing. We have also been aggressively expanding our wagering menu and finding the right niches to make our signal attractive on the national landscape. It will be challenging to keep moving the needle in a positive direction in the highly competitive Mid-Atlantic market, but our team is eager for the opportunity."

Offered:

By Equibase, Thoroughbred racing's official database, a complimentary dataset with a full year of past performance data and corresponding results charts for development, research and evaluation purposes. The dataset will include all racing information for the 2023 calendar year with the appropriate supporting documentation. Potential uses for the data include testing for product development or individual handicapping theories, support for research projects in academia and enabling sports marketers and organizations outside of the industry to see the type of information available for racing. "One of our top requests is the use of historical data from people looking to conduct research for a wide variety of purposes," said Jim Vanderbosch, Equibase's vice president for sales and business development. "Our hope is that this data not only will assist people in their respective research projects but will spur additional innovation in the handicapping product landscape and provide an on-road for those in the traditional sports betting markets looking to enter the racing market." More information on the dataset can be found at equibase.com. People interested in the data must complete a registration that includes an email address where information will be sent.

CHROMO SUMES

FIRST FOALS BY
UNCLE MO'S CLASSIC SON.

Colt o/o Franderella
at 39 days old

"HE'S ABSOLUTELY PERFECT. BECAUSE OF HIM, I'M BREEDING FOUR OF MY MARES, MY FARRIER IS BREEDING A MARE, AND A CLIENT IS BREEDING ONE. THAT'S HOW IMPRESSIVE THIS COLT IS."

PAM ROBINSON, BRANDYWINE FARM

MO DONEGAL

SPENDTHRIFT
$15,000 S&N

Milestones

Died:

Pennsylvania-bred broodmare, millionaire and Grade 1 winner Plum Pretty, at Kentucky's Gainesway Farm in March. She was 16. Bred by Silent Indy Stables and DDS Stables, the daughter of Medaglia d'Oro and the A.P. Indy mare Liszy failed to meet her reserve twice as a sales yearling before selling for $130,000 to John Fort as a 2-year-old in 2010. Racing for Fort's Peachtree Stable and trainer Bob Baffert, Plum Pretty won the Kentucky Oaks-G1 and Cotillion Stakes-G2 at 3. She returned in 2012 to win the Apple Blossom Handicap-G1 and finish third in the La Troienne-G2 before being retired and sent to the Keeneland November sale. She brought $4.2 million on a bid by Mandy Pope's Whisper Hill Farm. Her foals include two-time winner Pretty At War (by War Front). The bay mare's Pennsylvania roots went through Mark Reid's Walnut Green farm and sales business, which offered her dam Liszy at the 2008 Keeneland January sale for owner Linnie Scott. Reid put together a partnership of 10 people, and bought Liszy for $170,000. She delivered Plum Pretty in March. She didn't sell at Saratoga, didn't sell again at Timonium and went to South Carolina's Kip Elser to prep for the 2-year-old sales. Though the filly was still growing into a 16.2-hand frame, Fort was attracted by her pedigree and came up with a bargain. She won five races, earned $1.6 million on the track before the big pricetag as a broodmare prospect. Originally at Timber Town Farm and then at Gainesway, Plum Pretty didn't reproduce herself, but will be remembered at both places. "She was a pleasure to be around and always a great mom," said Pope. "We are blessed to have several fillies out of her still to race and one that has

PATRICIA MCQUEEN

Owner John Fort leads Plum Pretty after her 2011 Kentucky Oaks victory.

GRADES MATTER

Equistar Stallions are #1 all the way!
Grade 1 winners – Grade 1 sires

Brody's Cause

Giant's Causeway–Sweet Breanna

Sire of Grade 1 winner **KALYPSO** ($607,638), who won or placed in SIX graded stakes and sold as a broodmare prospect for $2.1 million in 2022. Two-time G1-winning millionaire **BRODY'S CAUSE** is also sire of G3 winner **SITTIN ON GO** ($291,353), 2023 star **PALUXY** and nine additional black-type earners horses. $3,500 LFSN

Smarty Jones

Elusive Quality–I'll Get Along

3YO Champion and multiple Grade 1 classic winner himself, **SMARTY JONES** has sired 32 black-type winners, including 3 champions, 25 graded stakes horses, among them G1 winners **BETTER LIFE, SMART D N A, BAMBA Y BAMBA, CENTRALINTELIGENCE**. $3,500 LFSN

Annville, PA
Call Rodney Eckenrode 302-236-3886
EquistarTrainingCenter@yahoo.com

EQUISTAR
Training & Breeding

Milestones

already produced a foal. The colts have gone on to secondary careers in the show world and have her awesome personality."

Released:

By The Jockey Club, data from the 15th year of reporting to the Thoroughbred Equine Injury Database. The report showed the rate of fatal injury in 2023 was 1.32 per 1,000 starts, the second-lowest rate of fatal injury since the EID began in 2009. This is the fourth consecutive year that the rate of fatal injury has been below 1.5 fatalities per 1,000 starts. The rate of fatal injury increased slightly from 2022, which has the lowest rate of incidence since 2009 of 1.25 fatalities. Analysis of the EID was provided by Professor Tim Parkin (University of Bristol), who has consulted on the EID since its inception, and by Dr. Euan Bennet (University of Glasgow). "There was a slight increase in the rate of fatality from 2022 to 2023 of 5.6 percent," Parkin said. "However, this is not statistically significant, and we are encouraged by the low numbers in 2023 that the industry is still headed in the right direction with regard to keeping its horses safe." Based on the 2023 data, 99.87 percent of flat racing starts at the racetracks participating in the EID were completed without a fatality. When compared to 2009 (2.0 fatalities per 1,000 starts), 2023 shows a 34 percent decrease in risk of fatal injury. "This change is statistically significant ($p<0.001$)," Parkin said. "This is equivalent to 171 fewer horses sustaining a fatal injury racing in 2023 than would have occurred had the number of starts remained constant since 2009." Key statistics from the 2023 analysis include (figures represent the incidence of racing fatality per 1,000 starts) – 2-year-old: 0.79, 3-year-old: 1.37, 4+-year-old: 1.38; <6 furlongs: 1.22, 6-8 furlongs: 1.37, >8 furlongs: 1.32; dirt: 1.43, turf: 1.13, synthetic: 0.97. Since March 2012, racetracks have been able to voluntarily publish their statistics from the EID on The Jockey Club website. The racetracks that publish their EID statistics reported racing fatalities per 1,000 starts of 1.07 as compared to 1.50 for those that do not publish. In addition, racetracks covered under the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority had a rate of 1.23 per 1,000 starts. Non-HISA tracks in the U.S. had a rate of 1.63 per 1,000 starts. The EID statistics are based on injuries that resulted in fatalities within 72 hours from the date of the race. The

— Mid-Atlantic-bred Stakes Winners —

February 14 – March 13

Maryland-bred

CHARMING WAY, gr./ro.m., 2019, Blofeld—Ready Charm, by More Than Ready. B-Melissa Cantacuzene; O-Troy Johnson & Jagger Inc.; T-Jamie Ness. $100,000 Nellie Morse, Laurel, Feb. 17.

JAXON TRAVELER, dk.b./br.h., 2018, Munnings—Listen Boy, by After Market. B-Dr. & Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau; O-West Point Thoroughbreds; T-Steve Asmussen. $100,000 Bill Thomas Memorial, Sunland, Feb. 18.

MISS HARRIETT, gr./ro.f., 2021, Blofeld—Tejano Sea, by Sea of Secrets. B-David Baxter; O-Narrow Leaf Farm; T-Brandon McFarlane. $100,000 Wide Country, Laurel, Feb. 24.

POST TIME, gr./ro.c., 2020, Frosted—Vielsalm, by Fairbanks. B-Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Dr. Brooke Bowman & Milton Higgins III; O-Hillwood Stable; T-Brittany Russell. $200,000 General George-G3, Laurel, Feb. 17.

SPEEDYNESS, b.g., 2021, Great Notion—Hartigan, by Include. B-Jagger Inc.; O-Morris Kernan Jr. & Jagger Inc.; T-Jamie Ness. $100,000 Miracle Wood, Laurel, Feb. 24.

New Jersey-bred

SMITHWICK'S SPICE, b.g., 2016, Frost Giant—Spicy McHaggis, by Good and Tough. B/O-New Spice Stable; T-Douglas Nunn. $75,000 Leinster Turf Dash, Tampa Bay, Feb. 24.

Pennsylvania-bred

JEANNE MARIE, b.f., 2021, Speightster—Bouquet of Gold, by Medaglia d'Oro. B/O-Cash Is King & LC Racing; T-Robert Reid Jr. $75,000 Main Line, Parx, March 5.

Mares can be considered
for contracts payable from
sale proceeds or foal-shares.

REVOLUTION

IN NEW YORK FOR 2024

A **NY-Bred Champion** with **Five 100+ Beyers**.
A **4x New York stakes** winner by over 30 lengths,
including the sire-making **Cigar Mile H. (G1) over:**

OLYMPIAD (G1)
CODE OF HONOR (G1)

AMERICANREVOLUTION

CONSTITUTION's Fastest Miler at stud

2024 fee: **$12,500** S&N

ROCKRIDGE STUD LLC

Standing in partnership with:
WinStar Farm, **CHC**, **Inc.**,
Taylor Made Stallions,
Mill Creek Farm, and **Fortune Farm**.

Erin Robinson *859.421.7531* *Lere Visagie* *518.851.6616*
5384 Route 9H-23 Hudson, New York 12534 www.rockridgestud.com

NEW YORK THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS, INC. NYTB

NYBREDS.COM
NEW YORK THOROUGHBRED BREEDING & DEVELOPMENT FUND

Milestones

statistics are for official Thoroughbred races only and exclude steeplechase races. Summary statistics for the EID are subject to change due to a number of considerations, including reporting timeliness. All data entered into the EID goes through a multilevel quality control process to ensure the data is completely and accurately reported.

Published:

By five Mid-Atlantic tracks, Equine Injury Database statistics from 2023. At Delaware Park, the fatality rate was 1.08 per 1,000 starts, down from 1.68 in 2022; at Laurel Park the number was .74, down from 1.03 in 2022 and the lowest since data was first collected in 2009; Monmouth Park was 1.29, down from 2.05 in 2022; Pimlico's rate was .63, slightly lower than 2022 and down from 1.68 in 2021; Timonium's short meet (400 starts) had zero fatalities for the third time in five years. The other regional tracks – Charles Town, Colonial Downs, Parx Racing, Penn National and Presque Isle Downs – do not publish individual statistics.

Stallion News

Boggs Shoemaker has been running Timber Ridge Farm, near Fenton, just south of York, Pa., for more than 50 years, and has stood stallions for decades. He has a new prospect, Grade 3-winning sprinter Hopeful Treasure, who arrived in early March and quickly had more than a dozen mares in his book.

"He's pretty," said Shoemaker of the 7-year-old son of classic winner Oxbow. "He's well-proportioned and put together pretty nice. And he retired sound."

From the sireline of Deputy Minister through Breeders' Cup Classic-G1 winner Awesome Again, and bred by Calumet Farm out of Giant's Causeway's winning daughter Elle Special, Hopeful Treasure won seven times and placed in seven others in 24 starts while earning $363,607. He scored at Parx Racing, Delaware Park and Laurel Park in the region. His biggest win came in Aqueduct's 6-furlong Fall Highweight Handicap-G3, which he won by a head over Green Light Go under 128 pounds.

Hopeful Treasure is from a family of top-class international runners – his second dam is a half-sister to Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe-G1 winner and European Horse of the Year Peintre Celebre.

His last win came in a Parx allowance last June by 4¼ lengths for longtime owner Tony Como of Just In Time Racing, who retired the bay this season. Said Shoemaker about his new addition: "When opportunity knocks, you have to answer the door."

THE RACING BIZ
The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

Maryland agreement to "usher in new era" per Stronach Group: Frank Vespe reports on the negotiations directed at finalizing a comprehensive agreement aiming to secure the future of racing in Maryland.

In Virginia, "gray games" need more clarity: Virginia legislation, that would permit "gray games" slot machines to proliferate, needs much more thought, argues Nick Hahn.

Lack of MTROA transparency a concern: Maryland racing people deserve to know what their future is going to look like. But the lack of transparency from the MTROA was leaving them frustrated, Vespe opines.

Coastal Mission named WV-Bred Horse of the Year: After dominating state-bred foes and winning in open company, Coastal Mission was announced the 2023 WV-bred Horse of the Year at the WVTBA banquet in early March. Ted Black was there for the festivities.

"Tears in my eyes" after trainer Singh's first win: Somraj "Troy" Singh's journey has taken him from Guyana to Laurel, Md., and from a racing-loving truck driver without much horse knowledge to a winning trainer, writes Vespe.

Trainer Caitlin Keil notches first win: She didn't have to wait too long for her first score, which came in early March at Laurel Park, but it sure felt that way to Caitlin Keil, reports Vespe.

DR. SCHIVEL

A MULTIPLE G1-WINNER

More Triple-Digit Beyer Speed Figures than any Kentucky Stallion from the Medaglia d'Oro line

Kentucky Stallion	# of Triple-Digit Beyers
Dr. Schivel	**4**
Forte	3
Higher Power	3
Volatile	3
Bolt d'Oro	3

AS A 2YO WON
THE **G1 DEL MAR FUTURITY**
WON THE **G1 BING CROSBY**
AS A 3YO DEFEATING
OLDER HORSES

NEW FOR 2024

TAYLOR MADE STALLIONS

FEE: $12,500

TAYLORMADESTALLIONS.COM | 859.885.3345

VIOLENCE - LIL NUGGET, BY MINING FOR MONEY

Future of Maryland racing goes to state legislature

By Joe Clancy

A new Pimlico Race Course. A new training center. A new not-for-profit racing operator. The most visible items in the Pimlico Plus plan put forth by the Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority in January get all the attention, but an out-of-view piece might be the most important.

Stability.

The plan, boosted when the MTROA reached an agreement with the Maryland Jockey Club March 14 and further bolstered by the introduction of House Bill 1524 and a hearing before the Ways and Means Committee days later, would solidify the state's Thoroughbred industry for decades according to supporters.

"It brings stability and we haven't had that for the last couple years and we hear that from the breeders all the time," said Kent Murray, president of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association. "Breeders aren't sure what the long-term future of racing is in Maryland and this should give them confidence. This is a long-term plan, this is not a quick-fix-and-get-out-of-town kind of thing. This is something that will take a while. Annapolis will invest, the horsemen and the breeders are all behind it. I think it will bring breeders back to Maryland and that's important."

The proposed legislation was the latest step in a process started last year when Gov. Wes Moore and legislators created the MTROA. Given the ability to oversee day to day Thoroughbred racing operations, among other roles and purposes, the MTROA studied state racing models, gathered input from construction and business consultants and put forward Pimlico Plus. The plan consolidates year-round racing at a reconstructed/re-imagined Pimlico in Baltimore, creates a training center in a to-be-determined location and forms a not-for-profit operator to take the place of the for-profit Maryland Jockey Club and its parent companies The Stronach Group and 1/ST Racing.

Authority presentations from 2023 produced different visions for the future of racing in Maryland. The MJC wanted fewer live racing days and a larger portion of racing's slots allocation. Horsemen (already helping fund MJC operations with $11 million intended for purses annually), breeders and others put forth a longer racing schedule and a not-for-profit operator. Outdated, dilapidated facilities at Laurel and Pimlico weighed on both models. The MTROA mission, a state law keeping the Preakness in Baltimore and economic realities pushed the two sides toward a resolution.

Since January, MTROA representatives headed by chairman Greg Cross negotiated with officials from Stronach to structure an agreement for Pimlico Plus to move forward to the General Assembly. As the end of the state's legislative session loomed April 8, the agreement came.

"Since the announcement in early January, which outlined a framework for an agreement in principle between The Stronach Group, The Maryland Jockey Club and the Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority, the parties have engaged in extensive negotiations directed at finalizing a comprehensive agreement," Craig Fravel, executive vice-chairman, 1/ST Racing and Gaming, said in a statement. "That agreement aims to secure a sustainable future for the Maryland Thoroughbred racing industry and ensure the successful operation of Pimlico Racecourse and the Preakness in Baltimore."

In the hearing March 19, state delegates questioned Cross, MTROA executive director Mark Broady and the governor's chief legislative officer Eric Luedtke about the plan for more than an hour. Concerns mainly covered the financial aspects of the plan, the impact on the community near Pimlico and other areas.

In opening remarks, Cross called the MTROA plan a game-changer for the racing industry, and the state.

"With this approach, the state would be investing in itself and the equine industry that has a $2 billion

CONNECT

$15,000

2024 GSW Apple Picker - G3 Barbara Fritchie
2023 - 9 BTWs, 3 GSWs, 2 G1Hs
2023 Yearling Sales incl. $225,000, $210,000, etc.

UNION RAGS

$15,000

2024 Dual Stakes Winner Power Squeeze
2023 Dual GSW Caramel Swirl
Five G1 Winners

PROVEN VALUE

THE FACTOR

$10,000

Top 10 Sire of Winners in 2023
Top Five Sire of 2YOs in 2023 by BTWs
Nearly 75% winners from named foals

TONALIST

$10,000

2024 Stakes Winner & Multiple GSP MISTY VEIL
Highest A Runner Index
Among KY Stallions Standing for $10,000 - 1.95

LANE'S END

lanesend.com
859.873.7300

direct economic impact rather than subsidizing a private operator," he said. "It is also our view that this approach will allow the industry to take responsibility for itself and in the case of the Preakness control the way that the city's and state's marquee event is presented to the world."

Questioned about the business model and racing's ability to operate without additional state subsidies beyond what's in place now, Cross said the MTROA expected the operation to make a profit, at Laurel temporarily and at the new Pimlico.

"Our most difficult years will be the couple of years we're at Laurel because we don't have the new facility and the ancillary streams [of revenue]," he said. "It will be a small profit but we will, and that's the deal. We're asking for the investment, premised on the fact that the horsemen will be responsible for balancing the books."

Cross assured the committee that the operator would work with the Park Heights community to maximize benefits beyond the Pimlico property, mentioning a hotel, parking garage, indoor and outdoor event space, workforce housing and training and future development parcels.

The committee also questioned a piece of the proposed legislation – and its impact on the Standardbred industry – that redirects money from a racetrack facilities fund designated for Rosecroft Raceway (owned by Stronach and facing potential closure) to help satisfy the bond debt.

Subsequent legislative steps involved a House vote, a Senate hearing, a Senate vote and – if approved by the session's end – Moore's signature.

The legislation calls for the issuing of $400 million in bonds to fund construction, and is similar to a bill passed in 2020 to reconstruct facilities at Laurel and Pimlico. That plan did not proceed due to high costs and changing economic conditions. Backed by the MTROA's formation, the newest concept found more traction. The pact between the organization and the Maryland Jockey Club was key.

"The legislation would not have gone forward without the agreement," said Alan Foreman, an MTROA board member and general counsel of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. "Legislators did not want to hear from us if we didn't have a deal. We were late in the session, but we were confident that if we could get a signed agreement, they would put forth a bill and vote on it."

The construction bonds will be paid back over 30 years, backed by the Thoroughbred industry's share of slots revenue, meaning that the state Thoroughbred industry can count on structure over that timeline.

"It's the ability to have control of the tracks in Maryland as opposed to out of state," Murray said of the plan's chief benefit. "That will benefit the horse industry long term. We'll see who the non-profit board is made up of. I'm sure it will be people from Maryland who have the interests of Maryland racing and Maryland horsemen at heart."

Many Steps to Take

The plan will include a full field of moving parts, and they will become more defined as the process continues. A few of the most notable items include (all pending legislative approval):

- Pimlico will transfer to the state on July 1. Some construction could begin this year.
- In January 2025, the not-for-profit will take control of racing in the state.
- The not-for-profit will assume the Maryland Jockey Club name and be able to operate racing at Laurel rent free for three years.
- The Preakness (managed by The Stronach Group) will most likely be at Pimlico in 2025 for the 150th running, and move to Laurel for 2026 during construction, before returning to the new Pimlico (and management by the new operator) in 2027.
- The Stronach Group will own the Preakness and lease the rights to the state for $3 million annually (plus 2 percent of gross handle on Preakness and Black-Eyed Susan days) in an agreement that can be renewed every 10 years.
- All Preakness and racing memorabilia owned by the MJC will be transferred to the state with the Woodlawn Vase being made available on permanent loan.
- Laurel Park will eventually close, probably before Jan. 1, 2028, and could be developed or sold by Stronach. ■

SPEED & CREDENTIALS
TO LEAD THE FRESHMAN SIRES LIST

FIRST TWO-YEAR-OLDS HAVE SOLD UP TO:

FEE: $12,500 S&N

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN
$350,000

FAST G1 WINNER BY CURLIN

FEE: $5,000 S&N

PROMISES FULFILLED
$230,000

FIVE-TIME GSW SPRINTING AND ROUTING

FEE: $7,500 S&N

TOM'S D'ETAT
$190,000

TEN TRIPLE-DIGIT BEYERS

CALL FOR LATE SEASON INCENTIVES

WINSTAR
www.WinStarFarm.com | (859) 873-1717

— Next Chapters —

BY MAGGIE KIMMITT

Grandiflora

MAGGIE KIMMITT

Jaidyn Shore and Grandiflora displaying their talents at the Real Rider Cup in Fair Hill.

After a lifetime with Thoroughbreds and a training career spanning more than 50 years, nothing much surprises Ann Merryman.

Except for Grandiflora.

Bred by her longtime client Richard Blue Jr., Grandiflora was foaled in Maryland April 7, 2011, a son of graded stakes winner Scipion and the With Approval mare With Flora. Merryman purchased the mare for Blue as a yearling with an eye toward a potential career as a broodmare. She sped up the process by losing all five starts as a 3-year-old in 2005.

Her son Grandiflora went to the races as a 3-year-old in 2014 and raced for Blue and Merryman over the next four years – winning five times and placing in the 2016 Laurel Dash and Maryland Million Turf. A solid earner with a formidable personality, Grandiflora was a barn favorite throughout his career.

"He's a wonderful, very talented horse," Merryman said. "We all loved him. And as Michael, my son, said at one point, 'He was a few noses away from $650,000.' He just ran lights out from day one."

The rain-soaked Preakness Day of 2018 threw his connections a curveball as a 5-furlong optional claimer was moved to the dirt and scratched down to five runners. Merryman thought about scratching, but left her horse in for the $25,000 tag. Grandiflora finished third and was claimed by trainer Claudio Gonzalez and owner Robert Bone.

"I thought, 'Well, I've done what I'm supposed to do.' He's a homebred, he'd made over $300,000, I lost him for $25,000 at 7 years old. And he wasn't my horse," Merryman said. "I thought by this time in my life I wasn't quite as emotional about losing horses, so I didn't really think anything of it."

Arriving at her Laurel Park barn the next day, she was floored by her reaction.

"When I drove through the gate at Laurel and realized I couldn't go give him a carrot, I got a lump in my throat . . . at my age."

Two starts later, June 29, 2018, Gonzalez entered Grandiflora for $25,000. Merryman hoped to convince Blue to claim him. When the owner hesitated, she decided to drop the slip herself.

"I thought, 'I know this horse; I know damn well he can pay me back and then I can retire him.' So it cost me $25,000 plus 6 percent [Maryland sales tax] to be able to give the horse a carrot again."

With Blue back aboard as a partner, Grandiflora made 11 more starts, finishing second in the 2018 Ben's Cat Stakes and third in that year's Maryland Million Turf. For the record, he doubled Merryman's reinvestment with $50,010 in purse earnings after the claim. His career ended with a fifth for a $16,000 tag at Laurel Aug. 10, 2019. The 8-year-old headed to Merryman's Sparks, Md., farm with his 54-5-4-15 record and earnings of $357,334.

As she does with all her retirees, Merryman rode him herself at first.

"I just walked through the woods and would turn and jump, turn and jump. But I thought, 'my God this horse is so talented,' " she said. "When I realized what a superior jumper Grandi was going to be, I figured he didn't need to rot out in my field for me to be lazy with."

Former employee (and now jockey) Sara Hess asked Merryman one day if she could bring two young girls to the barn. Just 9 and 10 years old, the girls were taking lessons with Merryman's cousin, Suzanne Stettinius.

"I said OK, but I was thinking 'Do I really want these kids at my farm?' Then I walked in the barn and they were filling hay nets faster and more efficiently than anyone I had working for me."

The girls were rewarded with a trail ride. Jaidyn Shore rode Grandiflora, and Merryman was immediately struck by the youngster's natural ability. She suggested Stettinius take Grandiflora to her farm for Shore. Stettinius had her own history with Grandiflora.

"I used to gallop Grandiflora when he was 2 or 3 and started coming in to Pimlico," she said. "He was pretty much my least favorite horse to ride because he ran off with me every single morning, so when Jaidyn did her first field master chase on him, I was thinking 'Ohhhh, I hope she can hold him.' "

Shore got on famously with the gelding from the get-go. Stettinius figured Grandiflora had grown up since her days galloping him, so she got on him at her farm one morning. And he took off with her again.

"I hunted him once. Jaidyn always hunted him in a Kimberwick [bit], and I said, 'I can't be caught dead in a Kimberwick,' so I used a figure-8 and a twisted snaffle. After an hour and a half I said, 'OK, I'm going back in. I can't take it anymore.' We had jumped like 10 fences, and that was enough."

Like Merryman and Stettinius, Erica Gaertner recognized the bond between Shore and Grandiflora.

"Jaidyn was game as could be, fearless and obviously very talented. She never gets tense. Suzanne has done so much with her and her race riding, galloping and cross-country schooling," Gaertner said. "I've done the ring stuff and show jumping and flatwork. So it's definitely a team effort. Jaidyn and Grandiflora know each other very well. She's gotten him down to a science, and they love each other."

Now a sophomore at Hereford High, Shore turns 16 this month. She's at the Stettinius barn every day, and her list of accomplishments is impressive for a rider of any age. She and Grandiflora have done junior races, paper chases, foxhunts, show jumping and back-to-back appearances at the Pony Club National Championships and Real Rider Cup competition.

"My favorite thing with Grandi is foxhunting," she said. "He doesn't love flatwork, but I make him do it and he's gotten much more flexible. I think it's more that I don't tell Grandi what to do, I ask him. He's so kind jumping. I still make so many mistakes; I get really ahead of my horses. But he will take any spot and he will save me."

Sounds like they save each other. They were part of the winning Green Spring Hounds Pony Club team at the nation-

"I think it's more that I don't tell Grandi what to do, I ask him. He's so kind jumping. I still make so many mistakes; I get really ahead of my horses. But he will take any spot and he will save me."

– Jaidyn Shore, about why she and Grandiflora make a good team

als in Tryon, N.C., in 2022 and 2023. They also competed on the Racing Kids team at the 2022 and 2023 Real Rider Cup in Fair Hill, Md., winning the individual title in 2023. Shore, who also received the 2023 Jonathan Kiser Memorial Scholarship from the Maryland Steeplechase Association, hopes to participate in both competitions again this year.

"I like the Real Rider Cup because it's really fun to see all the other ex-racehorses going out and the other kids in jockey silks," she said. "And I really like the courses – they're always fun, fast, tight and turn-y. I love that and so does Grandi."

Gaertner loves to watch them go.

"Jaidyn is the only kid I know who could have done Pony Club Championships and won like this," she said. "Not everyone can get on him and jump around a course. He has his own way, and they make it work."

Trust her opinion. In November 2023, Gaertner led the junior field master's chase at the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup on Grandiflora in what became an exercise in organized chaos.

"It seemed like a good idea at the time, although to be fair I had only been back riding from my knee surgery about a month," Gaertner said. "We started off fine, and then I could feel Jaidyn, on one of Suzanne's other horses, getting close to me. I thought I'd pick up the pace a little more and make it easier for the kids. Then we were flying through the stretch and Grandi was dragging me; I think my feet were on the dashboard."

Headed down a hill with the field behind her, she thought she could get Grandiflora geared down on her way back up the slope. Hands numb by this point, she was able to slow down just as the horse behind her slammed on the brakes and catapulted rider Yomar Ortiz Jr.

"The kids were all in a jumbled mess, but Yomar was fine," Gaertner said. "It was so embarrassing."

And served to reinforce the bond between the 13-year-old horse and his 16-year-old rider.

"Grandi's getting Jaidyn through her teenage years, which we all know is not the best of times," Merryman said. "She's a stellar student and amazing person. I just think the whole group of them – Jaidyn, Suzanne, Erica – is such a Cinderella story."

Shore passed the credit back to Merryman.

"I don't actually know what I would have done without Ann claiming him back," Shore said. "He's more than a horse. He's my best friend." ■

CELEBRATE SPRING
Many of the major farms in Maryland take advantage of what The Mill has to offer, including Country Life.
Mares are foaling, babies are playing, horses are training. And your pastures require attention. Whatever your needs, The Mill is here for you, offering curbside pickup and farm/stables delivery. And as always, advice from our expert nutritionist and management specialist Michelle. Just call us!
Charlie Brown 443-309-1288 • Kelley Nash 443-981-1352 • Michelle Jennings 410-952-4681
ELLEN B. PONS
410.838.6111 • www.TheMillofBelAir.com
FUELED BY The Mill®

The NC State Equine Veterinary Medical Program is powered by an exceptional team of faculty who provide state-of-the-art clinical care, perform groundbreaking translational research and teach the next generation of healers. Our experts lead the world in areas such as colic surgery, oncology, stem-cell therapy and ophthalmology.

Our hospital is a top-tier emergency and trauma center with one of the only specialized Equine Emergency and Critical Care services in the United States that includes a standing CT to provide safer and enhanced imagery. NC State faculty and staff provide around-the-clock, full-service emergency care to the horses of North Carolina and surrounding states.

Our New Equine Veterinary Center

To continue its leading role in equine medicine, the NC State College of Veterinary Medicine is building a modern Equine Veterinary Center on our veterinary medical campus. We are in the early stages of planning and design, and we look forward to having a space that will provide access to the best equine care possible.

NC State Veterinary Medicine | 1060 William Moore Drive, Raleigh, NC | ***Scan to Learn More***

— From the editor —

BY JOE CLANCY

Lederman voice will long be remembered

"Andrew San . . . was sixth, was fifth, was fourth, was third, was second, now he's in front," came the call – something like that anyway. The horse was a scrappy, hard-trying, come-from-behind turf runner who loved Atlantic City Racecourse.

The announcer was a scrappy, hard-trying guy way up there among the catwalks of the big-roofed grandstand at the historic New Jersey track. They were a perfect match.

Larry Lederman, announcer of Thoroughbred and Standardbred races, *Daily Racing Form* chartcaller, voice in the 1993 movie *A Bronx Tale* died March 5. He was 67. The native New Yorker will be remembered for his wit, timing, humor, friendship, race calls such as the one featuring my father's horse in the 1990s (Andrew San won four times on the turf at A.C. in 1994-95) and for a long fight with a brain tumor. He called flat races at Atlantic City, Garden State and Philadelphia Park (now Parx Racing), steeplechases at Fair Hill and loads of races for trotters and pacers at Freehold and other tracks.

Introduced to harness racing at Yonkers and Roosevelt raceways by his father, Lederman worked as a cab driver and did stand-up comedy before finding jobs in racing. He was a chart-caller first, then landed a gig actually calling the races at Atlantic City in 1987, soon added Garden State to the list and became the announcer at Freehold Raceway in 1998. He could do impressions, drop names of famous (or not-so-famous) people into the middle of a call and sing his way through a race. Lederman's race calls were fun, sometimes hilarious. Beyond all that, he could also be in-the-moment serious – working hard to give the horses, and their achievements, the right amount of credit.

His steeplechase work was fleeting, but special. Former jump jockey Gregg Morris, then the executive director of the Fair Hill Races, heard Lederman at Atlantic City and remembered him when Fair Hill was shopping for an announcer.

Lederman arrived, with all his flair. During a 3-mile timber race, the horses raced away from the grandstand south toward Elkton and were somewhat literally a mile from the finish line. Lederman went with it, mentioning the horses heading for another time zone, a new zip code or some other far-off locale. Between races, he'd mix in sponsor reads for law firms that didn't exist, but shared surnames with the stewards on duty. A 1989 race involved the horse Duke Kahana Moku, named for the famous Hawaiian surfer and Olympic swimmer. In a 2-mile race, there's plenty of time for one-liners and Lederman sung, literally sung, Duke Kahana Moku's name – as part of a

DOUGLAS LEES

"Tiny bubbles, in the bath" medley – as the 4-year-old stormed off the turn.

As you might expect at a steeplechase meet, all listeners weren't necessarily fans even if an overwhelming majority loved the new twist on an old task. Song and all. One traditionalist wanted Morris to fire Lederman because the fun "didn't give the sport the gravity it demanded." Duke Kahana Moku's win came in a $10,000 hurdle claimer with a $6,000 purse on a no-doubt steamy Saturday after Labor Day. The win-place-show pool was $8,945. The moon has more gravity.

"I just told him to tone it down a little," Morris said.

Pretty much anyone who knew Lederman has a story about visiting him in the announcer's booth or calling him on the phone between races. Turf writer Dick Jerardi wrote about some in a remembrance on the letsgoracingparx.com website. Morris came up with one pretty quickly, too.

"He always said to stop up and see him if I ever got to Atlantic City," Morris said. "I must have gone down there to run a horse on the flat or something and I found my way up there. You had to go way up in the top of the grandstand and walk on this catwalk in this attic-like place to get to him. He was in this little glassed-in place at the top. It was amazing up there."

In mid-conversation, Lederman shifted gears – and roles.

"All the sudden he says, 'Hold on, I've got to call this race,' and he starts calling it," said Morris. "Then, as he's calling the race he put my name in the middle of it."

Of course he did. Lederman was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor in 2011, the same year he received the Good Guy Award from the United States Harness Writers Association. Battling cancer, to a dead heat for a while, he still made the occasional guest announcing appearance.

Lederman was preceded in death by his wife, Jodi, and their daughter, Leslie. He is survived by his brother Alan, son Scott and a grandson. Memorial contributions may be made to the Christian Harness Horsemen's Association or a cancer- or hospice-related charity.

Say It Ain't So

If you're an owner, trainer, breeder, jockey or other horse person in the region, chances are you've talked to John Piassek. Since taking the job of communications manager for the Maryland Horse Breeders Association and staff writer for this magazine in July 2022, he has written dozens of stories about horses and their people.

Larry Lederman

Backed by enthusiasm and a nose for a good story, he wrote about pretty much anything – from the success of women trainers in Maryland to his first impressions of the Maryland Hunt Cup last year.

And, well, we're going to miss him. He leaves for a job with Yonkers Raceway in New York where he'll be the assistant racing secretary and back-up track announcer and chart caller. Piassek's last day with the MHBA is April 19, though you'll still see his byline as a freelance writer. Thanks for all the hard work. Don't forget us.

With that news, the MHBA seeks a communications manager. Responsibilities include managing social-media accounts, managing the websites of the MHBA, Maryland Million, *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*, Maryland Thoroughbred Hall of Fame and Maryland Horse Foundation, assisting with the Maryland Horse Weekly newsletter, writing and sending press releases and creating email campaigns. Expanded writing and other opportunities with the magazine are also available.

The ideal candidate has strong social-media and writing skills, is outgoing, creative, hardworking, a team player and willing to serve as a passionate ambassador for the organization. Experience with Adobe Suite, Hootsuite, Robly, and Joomla/WordPress software platforms is preferred. Send resume, cover letter and any questions to Barrie Reightler at barrie@marylandthoroughbred.com. ■

ECLIPSE SPORTSWIRE

Ready to Run

POST TIME ADDS GRADE 3 GENERAL GEORGE TO GROWING LIST OF ACHIEVEMENTS

By Joe Clancy

As Vielsalm charged down the Pimlico Race Course turf course in the 2016 Gallorette Stakes-G3 – trading punches with 10 others in the Preakness Day stakes – Brooke Bowman bruised his hand while banging on the low glass partition in front of his seat.

That's what you do when a 76-1 homebred tries to win a graded stakes on the biggest day at your home racetrack. You root, hard, and grab whatever you can in the moment. The daughter of Fairbanks came up a head short. Bowman got a thrill and a purple mark on his palm.

Eight years later, Vielsalm is still delivering – without the bruises – in the form of her son Post Time. Bred in Maryland by Bowman, his parents Tom and Chris, and Milton Higgins III, the 4-year-old colt has won seven of eight starts and earned $417,910. He pushed himself toward even stiffer competition with a win in the $200,000 General George Stakes-G3 at Laurel Park Feb. 17.

Trained by Brittany Russell for the Hillwood Stable of Ellen Charles, the son of Frosted thumped five rivals in the General George by rating early, clearing late and galloping home by 3 lengths at 2-5 for jockey Sheldon Russell after 7 furlongs in 1:23.33. Fellow Maryland-bred Seven's Eleven finished second with Tenebris third.

"He's a really cool horse to ride and on numbers he's getting better and better so, hopefully, he stays healthy and we can have some fun with him this year," said Sheldon Russell, the trainer's husband, afterward.

The fun will likely include more difficult assignments, starting with a potential try in the Grade 2 Carter Handicap at Aqueduct April 6.

"I think he needs to be tested," said Brittany Russell. "He is such a talent, and we always know he's good in Maryland. We can always come home. He's a Maryland-bred who loves Laurel Park. If we can test him and he can win a Grade 2, I don't think it's that crazy of a dream to think about a Grade 1 with this type of horse. He deserves it and Ellen Charles really does. She loves Maryland and loves racing at home, but it would be pretty special to give her a chance in a big race somewhere."

Post Time won all three starts as a 2-year-old on the way to a Maryland-bred championship and a slot (at 100-1) in some Kentucky Derby-G1 future books for 2023. The bettors should have waited a few weeks. Post Time never got near the Derby trail and missed most of last year with, as Brittany Russell put it, "something real minor" that showed up on a bone scan.

"It's no secret that we have had to do special work on his feet," said the trainer, who credited farrier Ian McKinlay with helping address that issue. "He had a foot that was giving us a hard time and we sent him for the bone scan just so we could say, 'Let's just make sure we're not missing something.' We gave him time, more than he really needed."

After an extended break, and water treadmill work, at Foxhall Equine in Fallston, Md., Post Time returned to the work tab at Delaware Park in July and to the races at Pimlico in September. He won the comeback, a 6-furlong allowance, by rallying from last and drawing away late.

The return brought relief, in several ways. For starters, the time off didn't sap Post Time's talent or competitiveness. Second, a win meant Brittany Russell could start mapping out a future. And, perhaps most importantly, Post Time showed he could get along with Sheldon Russell in a race. Exercise rider Eric Camacho did most of the morning work with the gray colt and was aboard for those three starts in 2022. They were Camacho's only three rides all year, out of necessity.

"He still has it in him. It's not every day now, but I have videos. On occasion, he'll go to town, standing up, doing all those things that he shouldn't do."

– Trainer Brittany Russsell, about Post Time's potentially bad behavior

"We always liked him and we thought he had ability," said Brittany of their first experiences with Post Time. "He was very athletic, but he was always a clown and the fitter he got, he got a little worse. He got fit, he was getting ready to run and he had his tricks. Eric was a huge part of his early development. He got on him in the morning, got him doing the right things and it worked out early on that he rode him a few times.

"So much of these horses is in the development, isn't it? Things going right, winning races, taking steps forward and I think Eric really did have a huge part of his early success. You never know. If he got loose one time and ran around, hurt himself, or just got to a point where we had to start over with some things, maybe he doesn't turn into the horse he is now."

Post Time still has his fun, but it's all a bit more controlled even if the trainer's phone includes more than a few video clips of assistant Emma Wolfe and the stable star in action.

"He's not a bad guy, he's just a playful bugger," said Brittany. "He still has it in him. It's not every day now, but I have videos. On occasion, he'll go to town, standing up, doing all those things that he shouldn't do."

Off the September return, Post Time went to Keeneland in October, and finished third in the 7-furlong Perryville Stakes. Back in Maryland, he closed 2023 with a head decision over Ninetyprcentmaddie in the City of Laurel Stakes. Two months later, the new 4-year-old blitzed five foes in the 1-mile Jennings. Then came the General George, and another win, in his graded stakes debut.

Based at Laurel since her training career started in 2018, Russell added stalls at Fair Hill Training Center (along with seasonal strings at Delaware Park and in Florida) to the plan and Post Time benefited.

"He loves it up there," she said. "Emma hacks him around, takes her time, there's just more for him to do and see up there. We rent from David Ross, it's a beautiful barn. He has a room with a view. Plus, when we ship him in to run at Laurel, he knows it's game time."

Post Time goes back to Satin Lilly, a mare purchased by longtime Bowman partner Higgins for $4,000 in 1993. The daughter of Affirmed produced six winners. Her daughter Merriweather (by Opening Verse) never raced, but produced a dozen winners. Another unraced daughter, My Rib, produced four-time stakes winner My Magician and 10-time winner Cabra Chica.

The Bowmans offered Vielsalm at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's yearling sale in 2011 but she went back to the farm a $3,500 RNA. Trained by Lynn Ashby for Brooke Bowman, Vielsalm won seven races, placed in 14 more and earned $329,285. That Gallorette was a highlight, as was a win in the 2014 All Brandy at Laurel. Brooke Bowman singled out a race she lost as a difference-maker, however.

"She was second in the race on Preakness Day and made enough money and was graded stakes-placed so we went to Saratoga to kind of check off the box of running a horse in a stakes at Saratoga," he said of the 2016 Waya-G3.

Sent off at 49-1, Vielsalm finished next to last in a field of nine. Afterward, Brooke and his sister Becky Davis stuck around to watch the Whitney Stakes-G1 featuring the best older horses in training. Frosted, bet down to 3-5, won in a romp.

"We were standing in the winner's circle area because we had gone down to see Vielsalm after the race and nobody told us to leave," Brooke said. "They didn't kick us out, so we were standing right there when he came running past. He just dominated them."

Three years later, considering Kentucky stallions and some foal-sharing/breeding ideas, Higgins put Frosted's name on a list. Remembering what he saw at Saratoga, Brooke didn't hesitate.

"We have to," he said, and stopped looking at the list. The mating is a B+ according to the TrueNicks, but you can give Post Time most of the credit for that. He's the only starter by Frosted out of a Fairbanks mare. Higgins died in April 2023, the breeder and/or owner of dozens of successful Thoroughbreds in a long association with the Bowmans and other Maryland horsemen. Post Time is only carrying on the tradition.

Sent to Fasig-Tipton Midlantic in October 2021 with the Davis consignment, Post Time sold for $85,000 in

JIM MCCUE

Apple Picker won the Grade 3 Barbara Fritchie for team Russell and owner/breeder Michael Dubb.

what was supposed to be a pinhooking venture between Hillwood and Cary Frommer. Charles changed her mind, thanks at least in part to a shared family name – the colt's granddam Merriweather and Charles' grandmother Marjorie Merriweather Post – and added Post Time to the Hillwood racing stable. He is her third General George winner, joining Cordmaker (2022) and Bandbox (2014).

As for Vielsalm, her Nyquist foal was due in March and she had a date with Tapit on her calendar. In addition to Post Time, she has produced six-time winner and $219,366-earner What Does It Take (by Munnings), double winner Battle of Bastogne (Street Magician) and 2-year-old McKinzie filly Field Song who sold for $80,000 as a yearling.

Stakes-Filled Day

The General George headlined a four-stakes Saturday lineup at Laurel as part of President's Weekend.

It's Sizzling Time started off with a mild upset in the $100,000 John B. Campbell for owners Chuckie Inc. and Mona Bowley. The first stakes winner for trainer Valrie Smith, the Florida-bred ousted Maryland-bred Double Crown by a nose in the 1⅛-mile stakes. Bob Marco started as the even-money favorite while looking for his fifth consecutive win. He set the pace, but settled for fourth. It's Sizzling Time became a stakes winner in his 40th start. Smith paid $1,000 for the son of Not This Time at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's yearling sale in 2019. The Campbell was his seventh win and increased his lifetime earnings to $307,766.

Maryland-bred **Charming Way** won the $100,000 Nellie Morse in her stakes debut for owners Troy Johnson and Jagger Inc. and trainer Jamie Ness, who claimed the daughter of Blofeld for $25,000 last summer. She ran her winning streak to four, to go with a second in five starts for the new connections. Charming Way won three times in 14 starts for her breeder Melissa Cantacuzene, Ellen Charles' sister, and trainer Madison Meyers. Cantacuzene purchased Charming Way's Virginia-bred dam Ready Charm from breeder Audley Farm for $20,000 as a yearling in 2007.

The Russells and owner/breeder Michael Dubb started a graded stakes sweep when **Apple Picker** landed the $200,000 Barbara Fritchie-G3 one race before the General George. The Kentucky-bred rallied from last of seven to defeat Last Leaf by a length. The daughter of Connect scored for the fourth time in a dozen starts, the first four with New York trainer Rudy Rodriguez. Apple Picker joined the Russell barn and won twice in 2023, including Pimlico's Weather Vane Stakes in September. ■

NEENA EWING COLLECTION / MARYLANDHORSE LIBRARY

Incomparably Influential

BREEDER, OWNER ISAACS IMPACTED THOROUGHBRED WORLD FROM MID-ATLANTIC BASES

By Eliza McGraw

Horses graze in rolling pastures along the lengthy driveway as you pull into Long Branch, the Virginia farm bought, restored and preserved by Maryland Thoroughbred breeder Harry Isaacs. The local hunt rides through the property and beaglers go afoot. Couples get married inside the historic house and people walk their dogs around the Clarke County property, with the Blue Ridge Mountains beyond. Art exhibits, speaker series and lectures fill the Long Branch calendar. You can visit the rose garden. Isaacs, who bred such famous runners as Intent and Intentionally, bought this 400-acre place when he was 83 years old. Its life today – as a wedding venue, open space and horse retirement farm – makes sense, given Isaacs' lifelong emphasis on method and legacy.

In a comment to *Baltimore Sun* racing writer Bill Boniface, Isaacs said he used the letter I to name his horses – Intent, Itsablue, I'd Like To and so on – because "it was easier to get names than try naming horses at random."

Nothing Isaacs ever did appeared random. He believed, as Boniface wrote, that "every step on the way to racing should be a considered one. Horses should get the best possible care, they should be broken properly, and everything else done to make them valuable racing instruments when they are turned over to the trainer."

Isaacs grew up in Baltimore, part of a family that owned a riding-clothes company originally called Over the Top Sport Togs. According to a 1939 catalog, these were made of the "choicest fabrics, carefully designed and tailored by conscientious craftsmen, born to the needle, and ever mindful of an unvarying creed, which is absolute satisfaction." As an adult, Isaacs ran the business, by then called I. C. Isaacs and Co., which had expanded beyond riding gear and owned factories in Milford, Del., and Newton, Miss. Isaacs named his Glyndon, Md., farm Brookfield, after his first elite runner, and served as the president of the Maryland Kennel Club. He bred dogs, including Rottweilers, and once owned an English bulldog named Sirloin O'Pugilist. Throughout, he cared for horses. He bred 42 stakes winners; 36 raced for him.

Isaacs was a friend of Hall of Fame trainer Max Hirsch (who won the 1946 Triple Crown with Assault and trained standouts Bold Venture, Sarazen and others) and Hirsch fueled an interest in racing in 1939. Isaacs bought eight horses from Idle Hour Farm's Col. E.R. Bradley, who named his horses – including champions Burgoo King and Bimelech – with names starting with B. Isaacs followed suit with those I names, and in 1947, the filly Itsabet became his first stakes winner.

A year later, Intent was born. The brown colt by Man o' War's son War Relic out of Liz F. (by Bradley's Bubbling Over), did not race as a juvenile and won the 1¾-mile San Juan Capistrano in 1952 and 1953 for trainer Buddy Hirsch (Max's son and fellow Hall of Famer). Disqualified from a win in the 1952 Santa Anita Handicap, Intent retired to stud with eight wins and $317,775.

Isaacs involved himself with all decisions regarding his horses, preaching the value of patience and planning. "He is modest about his part in the success of the establishment but the record reveals that his studies and his care have produced results, which is what counts – whether in business or sport," Boniface wrote in 1958.

Yearlings graze at Isaacs' Brookfield Farm in Maryland in 1943.

"You could tell he was a good one when he was a yearling. Horses are like fighting chickens. You didn't teach them to run. They either have it or they don't."

– Trainer E.I. Kelly, about champion Intentionally

Isaacs liked to explain his methods in broad strokes.

"Getting the right mare to the right stallion is the first step in breeding and racing," he once said.

As much as he studied up on bloodstock and attended his horses' lives closely, Isaacs was less consumed by attending races.

"He had a magnificent apartment on Park Avenue," said Colette Poisson, who worked for Isaacs for 19 years and still lives at Long Branch. "He had a beautiful place in Baltimore County. He very seldom went to the track. We used to sit in his den [to watch] the Preakness because he would give away his place at the track. Very seldom went to Belmont, unless he had something to do in New York."

Supported by Isaacs while standing in Kentucky, Intent outdid himself as a stallion. From 205 named foals, he sired 119 winners and 11 stakes winners. One practically changed the game. Isaacs sent his Discovery mare My Recipe to Intent in 1955 and entered her in a sale at Keeneland. Almost in the ring, she stayed with Isaacs when he realized he might be selling his best mare and told the consignor to buy her back.

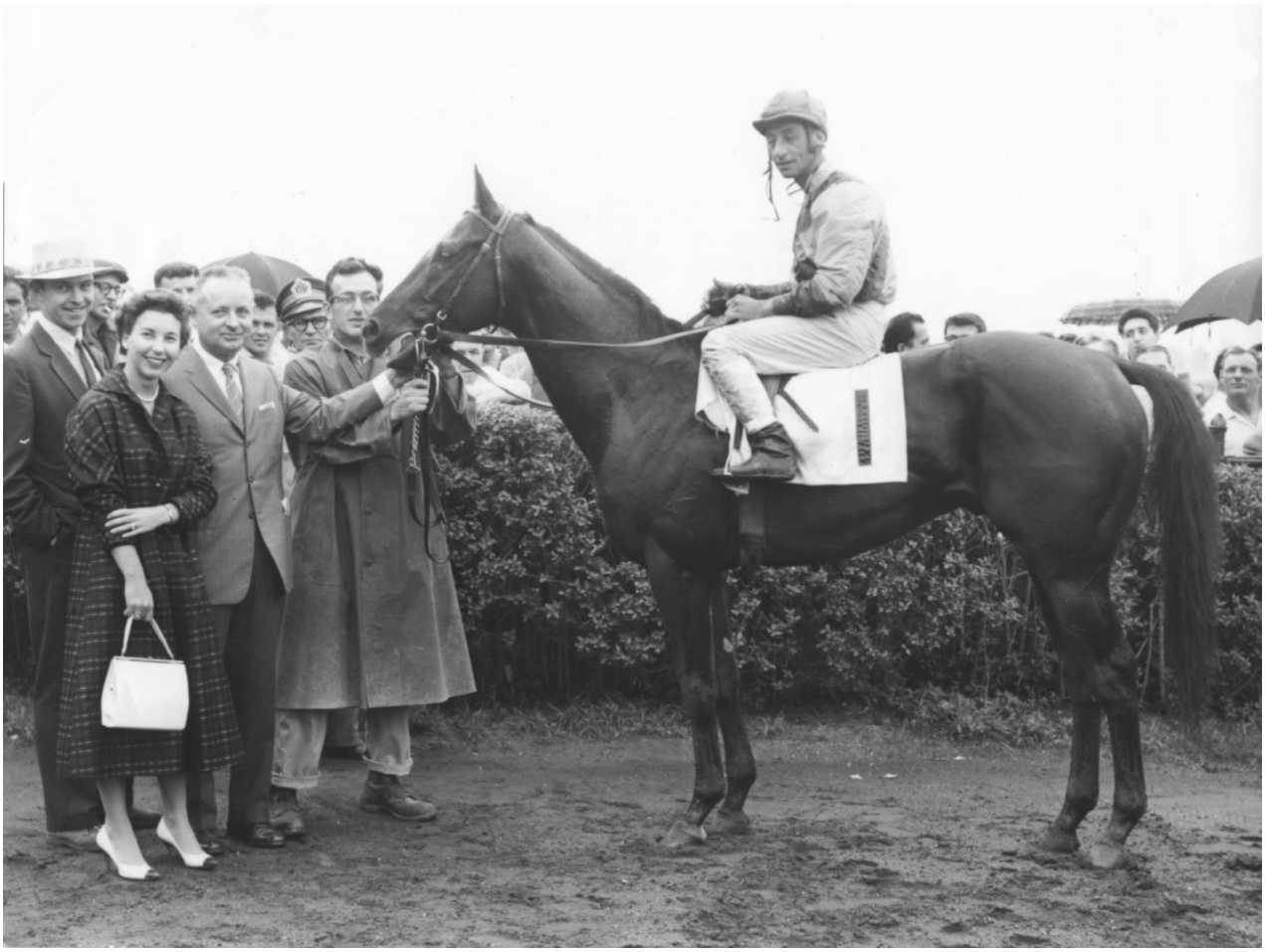
A champion, 18-race winner and earner of $652,258, Intentionally made the cover of the October 1958 *Maryland Horse* magazine.

The Intent—My Recipe colt became Intentionally, who won 18 races, earned $652,258 and landed the 1959 sprint championship. Trained by Baltimore's E.I. "Eddie" Kelly, Intentionally was a top 2-year-old of 1958 with wins in the Tyro, Pimlico Futurity and Belmont Futurity. At 3, he won the Withers, Jerome, Warren Wright (in a world-record tying 1:33⅕ for a mile) and Delaware Valley Stakes on the way to that sprint title. As an older horse, he added the Equipoise Mile and the Toboggan, Quaker City, Sport Page, Seminole and Palm Beach Handicaps for Isaacs and later William McKnight's Tartan Farm.

Once, with characteristic understatement, Kelly called Intentionally "a real nice colt." The trainer elaborated a little, telling the *Evening Sun* in 1958, "You could tell he was a good one when he was a yearling. Horses are like fighting chickens. You didn't teach them to run. They either have it or they don't."

Intentionally had it. He was fun to watch, with his black coat setting off the Brookfield colors, sky blue with purple sashes. "Throats tightened when a pocket quickly formed," wrote a *Daily Racing Form* reporter. "[Jockey Bill] Hartack gunned Intentionally toward the gap. The colt gave a wonderful response, and within a twinkling he had changed his course."

Jockeys loved him, too. In the winner's circle after the Withers, Manuel Ycaza called Intentionally the best horse he



In the winner's circle in New York in 1958 (from left) trainer E.I. Kelly, Mrs. L.P. Tate and Harry Isaacs met I've Got Rhythm and Hall of Fame jockey Eddie Arcaro.

had ever ridden. "He does everything you ask him, coming out of the gate properly, rating perfectly and moving away with ease."

"He did everything right," Willie Shoemaker said in April 1959 after the horse's 3-year-old debut at Jamaica, a win by 6½ lengths. "You couldn't be anything but tickled to death with the way he ran."

Like his sire, Intentionally didn't run in the Kentucky Derby. He was healthy after his fourth in the Wood Memorial, but, as Isaacs told the Associated Press, "We don't think he wants to go the distance." He would not make the Preakness, either. Turf writers understood that with Isaacs, taking pains was key.

A *Daily Racing Form* feature gave the owner credit for the decision, "Harry Isaacs . . . quite correctly surmises that the Preakness is no easy place to try a colt who has only had a single six-furlong race in nearly a month . . . Besides, as trainer Eddie Kelly pointed out recently, the colt does not like to have his races placed too closely together. Isaacs and Kelly are sportsmen of the old tradition, and neither is about to ask the improper of their horses for the sake of mere glory."

Kelly's son, Mike Kelly, said that Isaacs hired his father at Tropical Park in Florida, when a Kelly runner kept finishing in front of Isaacs horses. Isaacs put it bluntly, "I'm Harry Isaacs and I can't beat you, so I want to hire you." That's how the team started.

Eddie Kelly, like Isaacs, sweated the details. If a horse didn't eat well during the day, the trainer would have her fed in the middle of the night, said another son, Kel Kelly. If a horse lost by 20 lengths, Eddie Kelly took it personally, and would run to see the horse after the race. He checked the temperature of the bath water.

"They carved out a pretty good niche. They were in there with the big boys – you name it – Calumet, Whitney, Greentree, Rokeby. They did all right."

– Kel Kelly, about the success of his father E.I. "Ed" Kelly, and Harry Isaacs

Kelly was Isaacs' trainer for decades, a matter of pride. "I've bred horses for more than 50 years," he told an *Evening Sun* reporter late in his life, "and my horse trainer, Ed Kelly, has been with me for 38 of those years, longer than any trainer in any other stable in America."

"When he'd shake your hand, that was the end of it, there was no paper required," said Mike Kelly. "Those guys did 44 years on a handshake."

"They carved out a pretty good niche," said Kel Kelly. "They were in there with the big boys – you name it – Calumet, Whitney, Greentree, Rokeby. They did all right."

At stud at Tartan, Intentionally sired 140 winners and 20 stakes winners (from 189 named foals of racing age) before dying of a heart attack at just 13 in 1970. He cracked the top 10 on the general sire list four times and sired turf star Tentam, two-time sprint champion and Hall of Famer Ta Wee and future sire In Reality (whose mark on racing continues).

"Isaacs was just short of being obsessed with the Fair Play male line," wrote Joe Hickey in a 1990 *Maryland Horse* remembrance. "Though Triple Crown winner War Admiral was Man o' War's most proficient son on the track, it was left to War Relic to reinforce a faltering male line through Intent to Intentionally to In Reality, who is inbred 3x3 to War Relic."

In Reality's daughter Desert Vixen won two Eclipse Awards and made the Hall of Fame. Son Known Fact won England's 2,000 Guineas and that country's 3-year-old crown. Son Smile captured the 1986 Breeders' Cup Sprint-G1 and is the damsire of champion Smarty Jones. Another In Reality colt, Believe It, placed in the Kentucky Derby-G1 and Preakness-G1 and is the damsire of champion Real Quiet. Another son, Relaunch,

The 2000 Breeders' Cup Classic featured an all-Isaacs pedigree exacta as Tiznow (right) denied Giant's Causeway.

> "Most of the great races around the world have probably got a winner with those bloodlines in them. Either In Reality, Intentionally or that [Itsabet] female line."
>
> *– Pedigree expert Alan Porter, on Isaacs' impact as a breeder*

won Grade 3 stakes and became the grandsire of Horse of the Year and Hall of Famer Tiznow and damsire of Horse of the Year and Hall of Famer Ghostzapper.

As a broodmare sire, In Reality is responsible for champion Meadow Star, Japan's leading sire Real Shadai (out of Desert Vixen) and Kentucky Broodmare of the Year Toussaud (dam of Grade 1 winners and leading sires Chester House and Empire Maker plus Grade 1 winners Honest Lady and Chiselling and Grade 2 winner Decarchy).

As extraordinary as Intentionally was, Isaacs kept Itsabet, who left a legacy as a blue hen mare. The chestnut filly won three stakes as a 3-year-old and went to the breeding shed after a single win in 13 starts at 4. Bred to Intent, she foaled Ironically, who in turn foaled Imsodear, creating a bloodline that goes through Mariah's Storm to Giant's Causeway.

Pedigree expert Alan Porter called her influence on the female line "breed-shaping," and Tom Hall wrote in 2021 that her offspring have "carved her a place among the outstanding broodmares of the 20th century."

The Intentionally and Itsabet bloodlines collided in at least one high-profile case.

"Giant's Causeway was a European champion before he came to America and was beaten inches in his only start on the dirt in the [2000] Breeders' Cup Classic," Porter said. "The horse that beat him was Tiznow, and Tiznow is a male line descendant of Intentionally. So one was the Harry Isaacs male line – Tiznow – and Giant's Causeway is the Harry Isaacs female line. Running one and two separated by inches in the Breeders' Cup Classic."

Keep pulling on the pedigree strings, and Isaacs bloodlines are responsible for even more current stars of racing and breeding.

There is 2022 Horse of the Year Flightline, the highest-rated horse on the dirt (since the existence of international classifications). His sire Tapit is out of Tap Your Heels, inbred to In Reality.

Looking at the pedigrees of recent Kentucky Derby-G1 winners demonstrates the Isaacs influence, Porter said. Mandaloun, the 2021 winner, is out of an Empire Maker mare inbred to In Reality. The 2017 winner Always Dreaming is by Bodemeister, a son of Empire Maker.

"Most of the great races around the world have probably got a winner with those bloodlines in them," he said. "Either In Reality, Intentionally or that [Itsabet] female line."

"They used to call [Isaacs] the professor of pedigree," said Mike Kelly.

"Mr. Isaacs never went crazy with stallions," said Kel Kelly. "He stayed in his lane, and he always looked for that nick."

A barn fire in 1970 at Garden State Park killed eight of the 11 Isaacs' horses stabled there, including Intentionally's stakes-winning daughter Inevitable. A trainer rushing to the fire died of a heart attack, 32 racehorses and a pony died, and the 1942-built barn burned down. Isaacs never forgot the disaster, and forever scrutinized hay storage locations on his own properties.

"Mr. Isaacs told my dad, 'Eddie, you and the guys at the barn, you hang in there, because we'll build this thing back up,' " said Mike Kelly. "A lot of guys would have turned and run away."

But Isaacs didn't lose heart easily. When he bought Long Branch in September 1986, the 400-acre property admittedly needed some work.

"Needs some work?" said Poisson. "That was an understatement. It was sad. You entered that magnificent property. It's overgrown. The barn is falling apart. The stable is not any better. The fence is barbed wire. Then we came to the house and are faced with plaster, peeling paint, and a lot of water damage because of a leaking roof."

But Isaacs was intrigued, Poisson said, and traveled to Virginia to see for himself. "And he loved it."

He thought the original asking price was too high, but when it went up for auction, he bought it. "The first thing he did," Poisson said, "was to put the farm on easement, like many nearby properties." That meant that the property couldn't be developed; visitors today see much the same pastoral view

Isaacs did. Besides restoring the mansion, Isaacs added the gate, the gate house, the stable, the machinery shed, the run-in shed, 14 miles of fence, and a few miles of road. And then he furnished the house "magnificently," said Poisson.

When Isaacs' Thoroughbreds were stabled here, security patrolled at night, said farm manager B.J. Lewis, a Long Branch employee for 34 years. There was also a large feed cooker in the barn for warm mashes, made with oats and molasses.

Isaacs would sit on a chair in the stable and speak of plans for specific horses. "That goes to Kentucky to be bred to so and so," he told staffers. "This one's still a little off. Don't send him to the track yet."

KATHARINE TURNBULL PHOTOS

The stately views of Long Branch include the renovated mansion. The study (left), with a Richard Stone Reeves portrait of Intentionally above the fireplace and a table with his horseshoes embedded in the corners, draws visitors in.

KATHARINE TURNBULL PHOTOS

Virginia's Long Branch showcases Isaacs' legacy in the historic house (including his silks and a Sam Robinson painting commissioned by Brown Advisory) and surrounding barns and pastures.

Today, the stable and adjoining paddocks are leased to others. The pastures are home to retired horses, who crop grass peaceably, framed by the Blue Ridge scenery. Many are former eventers, a legacy from Olympic rider Karen O'Connor's tenure as the stable's early tenant. Some owners visit often, but many are far away. Lewis cares for them all.

Long Branch exists for more than horses, however.

"I've worked for some other gentlemen of the same caliber as Mr. Isaacs, like Mr. [Paul] Mellon," said Marianne Casey, Long Branch's executive director. "They appreciated the open space. And I just think how lucky we are that they allowed others to have it. Some of the people that come through don't have the means or the way to walk around a farm like this. If you don't foxhunt, you don't beagle, you don't belong to one of those clubs, [then] you're stuck with just what you see from the roadside. But here we're able to open it up and they can walk end to end."

The house at Long Branch, built in 1813 by Carter Burwell, was designed with advice from Benjamin Latrobe, architect of the United States Capitol. When Isaacs rescued it from disrepair, he chose every detail, and today, it is an elegant mansion. Horse people are most drawn to the study where a Richard Stone Reeves portrait of Intentionally hangs, and a table has the horse's shoes embedded in its corners.

Isaacs gave a party for 330 people when the house was complete. "He was very sick then," said Poisson. "But it was finished. We were all praying that he would make it to the

end." He had chosen everything, from andirons to equestrian wall decorations to the household china.

Isaacs never married.

Facing a cancer diagnosis and with a year left to live, Isaacs called Kelly to New York, Kel Kelly said, to tell him to train the horses as he always had. When Isaacs died at 86 in 1990, the Mississippi town of Newton passed a resolution to commemorate his life, since the city and citizens had "benefitted from Harry Z. Isaacs' friendship, leadership and commitment to our community."

"Like the true sportsman he was, Isaacs also established a trust for the employees who took care of his horses, to provide for them throughout the remainder of their lifetimes," wrote Hickey.

Isaacs had formed the Harry Z. Isaacs Foundation, which took over Long Branch after he died. Poisson moved to the gate house and opened the property to the public in 1991, and 38 of Isaacs' horses were sold at Keeneland's January dispersal that same year.

"There can't be any weak links in the chain if you are to succeed in racing," Isaacs told a reporter in November 1958. That was his philosophy all along: thoroughness, systems and attention to every detail.

"For the man who loved Fair Play to be responsible for the continuation of the Man o' War line," said Porter, "I'm sure he would see it as a life satisfying achievement."

"He was not going to pat you on the back," said Poisson. "If he didn't complain, you were good. I have tremendous respect for that man. And I will fight until I die so his memory would be remembered for what he did. He deserved it." ■

Special thanks to everyone at Long Branch, Roda Ferraro and the staff at the Keeneland Library for their help in preparing this article.

— Trackside: Laurel Park —

Breed to race, win

BAXTER, NESS PROGRAMS FIND STAKES WINS WITH HOMEBREDS

By John Piassek ■ *Photographs by Jim McCue*

For a breed-to-race operation, there's no better feeling than breeding a stakes winner.

David Baxter of Narrow Leaf Farm and Mandy and Jamie Ness of Jagger Inc. experienced that feeling at Laurel Park Feb. 24. Baxter's filly Miss Harriett, who upset the Maryland Million Lassie at 62-1 in her debut last October, won the Wide Country Stakes by three-quarters of a length. One race later, Speedyness, owned by Jagger Inc. in partnership with Morris Kernan Jr., took the Miracle Wood by 1½ lengths for his first stakes victory and fourth win in his last five starts.

Ness, who launched his training career in 1999, has been a stalwart in the Mid-Atlantic for years with four consecutive training titles at Parx Racing and nine at Delaware Park. He expanded his Thoroughbred holdings in 2017, when he and Mandy purchased 20 acres in Chesapeake City, Md., and launched a breeding operation. Ness had a few hard-knocking broodmares entering the twilight of their racing careers, and decided it was a good opportunity to give them a home and try his hand at breeding. The operation carries the moniker Jagger Inc., after Jamie's late dog.

Mandy said Maryland's central location inspired them to place breeding roots there.

"It's an hour-and-a-half to Parx, an hour-and-a-half to Laurel, and 40 minutes to Delaware. It's right in the middle of everything," she said.

She also appreciates Chesapeake City's rich horse history, which includes Woodstock Farm (Hall of Famer Kelso's former home and final resting place), Northview Stallion Station, Sycamore Hall Farm, Stuart Grant's C-Dog Farm and the large Standardbred operation Winbak Farm among others.

"It's like a little Lexington," Mandy said. "When you drive around, it's all horse farms."

The Ness property includes a rehab facility, where the Ness racehorses go for some down time. The majority of the broodmare band, which has blossomed to 20, consists of the stable's former racehorses. Chickaletta, dam of the first Jagger-bred stakes winner, Chickieness, was claimed for $12,500 at Parx in 2016, and competed 10 more times before retirement in the summer of 2017. Roughly half of the Ness broodmares go to local stallions, the rest to Kentucky.

"We're not breeding to overpriced, big-time stallions or anything like that," said Jamie. "The horses I'm breeding are horses that went through the bumps and bruises, they have big hearts, and it's carrying through their offspring. I'm always looking for a good home for horses, especially mares, and it's a way to rehome my own horses. If I have one who I feel will be a nice broodmare, we'll put her in the band and see what happens. I have a place to put them now."

The breeding operation is a full-on family affair. Jamie and Mandy's daughters, Hannah (11) and Emma (9), are instrumental around the farm.

"It's a team thing," said Mandy. "I do pretty much all of the foaling, and then I handle them until it's time to break them. Me and the kids do the foaling, they're here helping."

Emma is an avid stallion researcher and plays a big role in determining potential matings.

"She loves the *BloodHorse* stallion book," said Mandy. "You can tell her a stallion, and she'll find him and tell you everything about him. She'll sit there with her dad and go through it trying to find the right stallion for the right mares. She loves

JEFFERY SNYDER

Maryland-bred Speedyness rolls to victory in the Miracle Wood Stakes.

it. Hannah isn't as into it, but she likes to play with the babies and stuff like that."

On top of breeding, Jamie manages a string of 150 racehorses, spread over four tracks – Laurel, Parx, Fair Hill Training Center and Tampa Bay Downs. While he admits he doesn't have much downtime, he's made his routine work over the past few years. Homebreds help fill barns, with more set to join this spring, but he doesn't see a big difference in his training other than some quirks passed down from mothers to their offspring.

In early 2020, the Nesses purchased a few broodmares to add to their band. At Keeneland January, Maryland-bred Hartigan caught Jamie's eye. The daughter of Include had deep roots. Legendary owner/breeder Robert Meyerhoff purchased her third dam, Dynamic Star, for $200,000 in foal to Deputy Minister, with longtime trainer Dickie Small as agent, at Keeneland November in 1988. The resulting foal, Star Minister, won seven stakes, including the 1992 Cotillion-G2, earned Maryland-bred championships at 2 and 3 and bankrolled $458,650. Dynamic Star produced eight other winners, including Ohio Derby-G2 winner Stellar Brush, the graded-stakes-placed Dynamic Deputy and Dynamic Brush and the Ness-trained Fungible.

Star Minister produced four foals for Meyerhoff, including two-time stakes winner Concerned Minister. Another, the unraced Star Number, produced nine winners, including stakes-winning Struth and Hartigan, who won four stakes in her 12-race career and earned $197,300. All that family made Jamie take note.

"She was already a producer," he said, referring to stakes-placed Starry Moon [Malibu Moon] and Royal Number [Palace Malice], "and she was a good runner. She was older and in foal to a not-as-popular stallion [Exaggerator], so I was able to pick her up cheap."

For $13,000, Hartigan joined the squad in Chesapeake City.

"She still thinks she's a racehorse," said Mandy. "She still has that spirit. She'll drag you to the paddock, she'll drag you

> "It's an unbelievable feeling to know that you actually got it. It really makes you feel like you achieved something in your breeding program when you have a homebred make it to a stakes, let alone win a stakes."
>
> *– Mandy Ness, about recent stakes winner Speedyness*

into her stall as if she's going to the races. She's passed those traits to her kids."

The Exaggerator foal, named Guaponess, has won twice in eight starts, including a March 5 win at Parx, earning $54,057. The Nesses sent Hartigan to Great Notion for 2021 and got an eager colt.

"He was born trying to run out of his mother," said Mandy. "I've never had a foal literally kicking himself out of his mom. He was standing and nursing within 30 to 45 minutes. He was speedy about everything he did."

He kept up his speedy antics around the farm, zooming around the pasture far ahead of the other colts. The Nesses took to calling him "Speedy," and tacked on their last name to create his Jockey Club moniker. Kernan was impressed enough to purchase a 50 percent share after a visit to the farm.

Speedyness did his early work at Sharp Farm in Delaware, then joined Jamie's barn last spring. With his speed, coupled with what Jamie describes as a "Quarter Horse build," he looked like a win-early type. He lived up to that with a win at Laurel June 16, but hit his best stride near the end of the year. He led gate-to-wire in two of the final three starts of his 2-year-old season. His final win of the campaign, Nov. 17, came at a mile, exceeding Jamie's expectations.

"I never thought he could stretch out and be more of a distance horse," he said, "but we put some blinkers on him, put him on the lead, and it worked."

As a 3-year-old, Speedyness has continued to showcase early speed. He won his sophomore debut Jan. 7, drawing off to win by 14¼ lengths going a mile. On the strength of that, he went off as the odds-on favorite in the seven-horse Miracle Wood. Despite dealing with early pace pressure for the first time, Speedyness had more to give and held on for the win.

"I didn't know how he would react to pressure, and he responded. That was a big hurdle for us," said Jamie. "He's as easy as it gets. He's done everything right from day one. No problems, no physical issues, he's a dream. If I had a barn full of him, it would make my life a lot easier."

Winning a stakes with a homebred makes it more sweet.

"It's an unbelievable feeling to know that you actually got it," said Mandy. "It really makes you feel like you achieved something in your breeding program when you have a homebred make it to a stakes, let alone win a stakes. We're just a small breeding operation; we're more middle-of-the-road, so the success we've had is wonderful."

Miss Harriett delivers for Baxter

Meanwhile, Narrow Leaf Farm is an even smaller operation for Dayton, Md., real-estate agent Baxter. His father, Edmund, owned horses in West Virginia, and, along with a business partner, built a barn, which they leased to Charles Town trainers, and operated an equine swimming pool between Charles Town and the now-defunct Shenandoah Downs. David got his start swimming horses and working at the barn as a groom, branching out to work at other local tracks. His stable name came from a street near the barn.

His broodmare operation, which once featured as many as seven mares, is down to one: Spring Dance. She has produced two winners from three foals to race. Her youngest foal of racing age, a 2-year-old Kentucky-bred Vekoma colt named Bracket Buster, sold for $160,000 as a weanling at Keeneland November in 2022, then for $125,000 as a yearling at Keeneland September.

However, it's Tejano Sea, now relocated to Kentucky, who has made the largest impact on Baxter's breeding business. Baxter and his father purchased her for $27,000 as a 2-year-old at the 2006 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic summer sale, and campaigned her through 15 races, three wins and earnings of $69,220.

"We bought four horses at that sale, and she might have been the highest-priced horse we bought that day," said Baxter. "She was all speed. She had a lot of heart and just loved to run

JIM MCCUE

Miss Harriett prevails in the Wide Country Stakes.

fast. Her problem was that she had a lot of chips in her ankles. She had a fairly short career, but that happens with sprinters."

Baxter kept her as a broodmare, and bred her to Scipion for 2010. The foal, a colt named Keep Momma Happy, paid instant dividends, winning his debut at 24-1 in the 2012 Maryland Million Nursery. Tejano Sea produced nine winners from as many foals, including stakes-placed In Arrears, a full-brother to Keep Momma Happy, and graded stakes-placed Hemp (Super Ninety Nine).

"When she became a broodmare, she really began to shine," said Baxter. "All her horses have a lot of heart, they all try. Most of them were speed horses. Seven furlongs to a mile was about as far as they wanted to go."

The most recent of those foals is Miss Harriett, named for Baxter's mother and foaled at Narrow Leaf May 1, 2021. The gray daughter of up-and-coming Murmur Farm stallion Blofeld was sent to Merryland Farm for breaking, and started showing positive attributes.

"She's a very smart horse, very alert," said Baxter. "She looked like she was going to have a little bit of substance to her, and she turned out to be a pretty nice-looking filly. When they're smart, they just do what you ask them to, and they do it with ease."

Miss Harriett soon joined the Pimlico barn of Brandon McFarlane, who has trained for Baxter since launching his stable in 2017. Miss Harriett's intelligence made her a barn favorite.

"She's like a baby," said Baxter. "She'll put her head on your shoulders, no attitude, a nice, lovable horse. When she comes up to you in the barn, you'd never think she'd be what she is in the afternoon."

She made her career debut in the Oct. 14 Maryland Million Lassie. Students of Maryland Million history may have wondered if history was set to repeat itself.

"[Brandon] gave her two easy works, and I said, 'Let's just get in there and get her some practice with company, make a late run, and see what happens," said Baxter. "We really had no expectations."

Jockey Jean Briceno flipped the script. Rather than take back, he blasted toward the lead from post 12 and stalked the pace in the two path. Miss Harriett took control at the top of the stretch and fended off Sheilahs Warcloud by a neck, giving

Vetericyn®
ANIMAL WELLNESS
NEW PRODUCT!
Vetericyn DRESSING GEL
2 JAR
Vetericyn HOOF SOAK
Vetericyn HOOF SOAK
Vetericyn ANTIMICROBIAL WOUND CARE
Vetericyn HOOF CARE
Vetericyn FoamCare MEDICATED SHAMPOO
Vetericyn LINIMENT
NEW SIZE!
Vetericyn LINIMENT
CLEAN. TREAT. HEAL.®
Vetericyn® makes the most advanced, effective, and safe products to keep horses healthy. Whether it's cleaning wounds, treating hoof or eye issues, or conditioning and cleaning the coat, horse lovers trust Vetericyn for total equine wellness.
Made in the USA | vetericyn.com

"We were kind of shocked. Obviously, we were very happy and excited, especially with the race coming down to the wire. For her to dig back in and pull away, it says everything about her heart."

– Owner/breeder David Baxter, about Wide Country winner Miss Harriett

Baxter his second Maryland Million victory and McFarlane and Briceno their first.

"We were kind of shocked," said Baxter. "Obviously, we were very happy and excited, especially with the race coming down to the wire. For her to dig back in and pull away, it says everything about her heart."

Fifth in the Smart Halo Nov. 11 to close 2023, Miss Harriett showcased her speed and heart in her first two starts as a sophomore. She won a first-level allowance at 5½ furlongs at Laurel Jan. 14 by 7 lengths. That set her up nicely for the 7-furlong Wide Country, where she had to last through consistent pace pressure, then fight off Determined Driver late. Jaime Rodriguez had the winning mount in both races.

Miss Harriett's intelligence has played a part in her two victories, according to Baxter. She knows how to ration her speed and save just enough for the victory.

"She's not like some speed horses who are all or nothing and go as fast as they can as long as they can," he said. "She's proven that she can rate, and it's paid off."

Whenever 3-year-olds win winter stakes races around one turn, the inevitable question follows: can they stretch out? Miss Harriett's sprint-heavy pedigree might not suggest she can, but Baxter is keeping an open mind.

"We don't know; we'll see," he said. "If she can't go the distance, she'll let us know."

However far she goes, Baxter is enjoying the ride, and loves to watch his filly, who knows her job and enjoys it.

"Watch her when she runs," he said. "Her ears twist back and forth. That tells you that she's just having a ball out there." ■

MARYLAND JOCKEY CLUB
AT LAUREL PARK

APRIL STAKES

2024

NINE STAKES TOTALING $950,000 IN PURSES

SATURDAY / APR 13

- $100,000 GUARANTEED
  THE HEAVENLY CAUSE STAKES
- $100,000 GUARANTEED
  THE PRIMONETTA
- $100,000 GUARANTEED
  THE NATIVE DANCER STAKES
- $100,000 GUARANTEED
  THE FRANK Y. WHITELEY

SATURDAY / APR 20

- $125,000 GUARANTEED
  THE WEBER CITY MISS STAKES
- $125,000 GUARANTEED
  THE FEDERICO TESIO STAKES
- $100,000 GUARANTEED
  THE HENRY S. CLARK STAKES (LISTED)
- $100,000 GUARANTEED
  THE DAHLIA STAKES
- $100,000 GUARANTEED
  THE KING T. LEATHERBURY STAKES

LIVE RACING FRI – SUN

FOR INFO, VISIT ↗ LAURELPARK.COM

1/ST

EASTWOOD

Hits the Bullseye

PA'S LEADING 2023 STALLION

#1

BY AVERAGE EARNINGS
$44,623

BY % BLACK TYPE HORSES
27.3%

BY % WINNERS/STARTERS
82% (9 OF 11)

GRADED STAKES HORSE and
$800,000 sales horse by sire of sires
SPEIGHTSTOWN

$2,000 LFSN
Book a season for $2,000 in 2024 and receive a second season in 2024 or 2025 FREE - Your choice

Call Bob 732.241.6606 or Joerg 732.766.4507 TODAY!

Blackstone Farm, 116 Long Stretch Road, Pine Grove, PA 17963

BLACKSTONE FARM LLC

UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN

1st PA STALLION EVER TO SWEEP TRIPLE CROWN

Leading Stallions 2023	
Sire	**Stallion Awards**
Uptowncharlybrown	**$236,389**
Weigelia	$199,145
Warrior's Reward	$161,368
Jump Start	$141,735
Social Inclusion	$133,512

Leading Breeder 2023	
Name	**Breeder Awards**
Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	**$632,476***
Warriors Reward	$515,339
Glenn E Brok LLC	$359,839
Steven W Young Racing LLC	$332,507
Blackstone Farm LLC	$297,773
* NEW RECORD SET BY UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN STUD	

Leading Breeder and Stallion Awards 2023	
Name	**Breeder and Stallion Awards**
Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	**$868,865***
Warriors Reward	$676,707
Glenn E Brok LLC	$492,485
Steven W Young Racing LLC	$450,665
Northview StallionStation Inc	$420,396
* NEW RECORD SET BY UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN STUD	

2023 Earnings $2,812,798
$69,119 Lifetime AE/starter
10.3% Black Type Horses

No stallion moves your mare up like Uptowncharlybrown!

BLACKSTONE FARM LLC

$2,500 LFSN
Call Bob 732.241.6606 or Joerg 732.766.4507 TODAY!

Blackstone Farm, 116 Long Stretch Road, Pine Grove, PA 17963

— Trackside: Parx Racing —

‘Run and not be weary’

AFTER DEATH OF OWNER/BREEDER, PENNSYLVANIA-BREDS FIND SUCCESS ON NEW PATH

By Joe Clancy

Dee Curry and June Hillman just wanted to do the right thing. Faced with finding a solution for the Thoroughbreds owned and bred by Bill Brady, who died suddenly last summer at age 80, the women stuck to one basic goal.

“We felt obligated that all his horses, wherever they ended up, had to be OK whether they went racing or to show rings, whatever,” said Curry, who trained for Brady at Parx Racing in Pennsylvania. “His family was devastated, the horses were his thing and they didn’t really see a way to keep it going. We just tried to do right by the horses.”

“We all went into action to gather up the horses and see where we could get them,” said Hillman, who manages Castle Rock Farm in Unionville, Pa., where Brady was a client. “Our horses are like family to us and were to him. I’ve been here for 28 years, and I don’t remember him not having horses here. He always had three or four horses with us and if you called him up when something was wrong he would answer, ‘Whatever it takes.’ ”

In the end, it took creative thinking, commitment, an open mind and a little mystery.

The Brady horses included four yearlings and three broodmares (one with a 2024 foal) at Castle Rock, three 2-year-olds in early work and a racehorse with Curry. Two others, recovering from minor injuries, went to Parx’s Turning for Home second-career program, and another (then 3-year-old filly Whatsagizmo) made one final start for Brady’s estate. When she won a maiden claimer July 12, taking home $23,520, a week after her owner/breeder’s death, Curry and Hillman found some confidence among the stress and sadness while still knowing they had to figure out what do with more than a dozen Thoroughbreds.

Enter Stephanie and Mike Yekenchik. They own a farm in Medford, N.J., where she runs a boarding business and breeds western pleasure horses. They’re partners in a farm that sells beef, pork and eggs from free-range chickens. She grew up around racing – her grandfather Joe Yannuzzi was a trainer and her father Dave recently retired from a long career as a jockeys’ agent – but steered clear of getting involved as an owner or breeder.

“When I was younger, I couldn’t stand the racetrack,” she said. “I felt bad for the horses.”

Curry, who knew Yekenchik through her father, called in July and explained the situation – Brady’s death, the horses, Castle Rock, the mission. She didn’t oversell it, but also said the horses weren’t necessarily schlubs. Brady, who raced and bred under the banner RH Breeding, won seven races as an owner in 2022. He wasn’t big time, but he did OK.

“This was an opportunity for them to get involved from the ground up and get some horses with someone they knew and trusted,” said Curry, a trainer since 1996. “It was a package deal you couldn’t refuse if you wanted to get into this.”

And, with a single purchase decision, the Yekenchiks became Thoroughbred owners and breeders.

“I have a farm, I’ve always had horses, I’d just never had racehorses,” Stephanie said. “Dee told me the story and said she was just trying to make good decisions about what to do with them. I figured if worst came to worst, I could always put them on our farm and find homes for them.”

The Yekenchiks named their racing venture Isaiah 4031 Racing Stable, after the Bible verse and a Sunday moment.

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

All American Rod scores at Parx for trainer Dee Curry and new owner Isaiah 4031 Racing Stable.

Mike came back from church and told his wife, "Something happened at church and that verse came up," recalled Stephanie. "I told him that it reminded me of racehorses for some reason and he said it had to be our stable name."

Isaiah 40:31 goes: "They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

So far, so good. Isaiah 4031 Racing Stable has been represented by three horses. Ninja Prize lost two starts last year and got claimed for $25,000. Uncle Lino gelding Dropline finished second in his debut in late December and won his 3-year-old debut, a maiden special weight, in February. Another 3-year-old, Rimrod gelding All American Rod, broke his maiden in February and returned to win an allowance race March 6. That's six starts, three wins, a second, $107,090 in racetrack earnings, plus the claiming check and a 3-for-3 mark through March 12 this year.

They run. They're not weary. They haven't fainted.

"It's crazy," said Stephanie, whose farm now includes three Thoroughbred broodmares. "I can't really explain it. We didn't expect anything like this."

Curry agrees. "I don't know what to call it where new people get so lucky with racehorses sometimes," she said. "We just keep looking at each other and wondering how and why."

Luck? Fate? Magic? Divine intervention?

"Bill would be amazed and we're not sure he's not riding them from heaven," said Hillman. "Every time one of these horses goes out and does well, he would think it was the best thing ever. I'm still in touch with his wife [Kathleen] and the horses are still bringing the family thoughts of Bill and the breeders' bonuses too. He bred all of the ones running now, he made the decisions and I feel like it's his legacy that's being lived out."

Yekenchik feels some of that too, even if she never met the man.

"He was on to something with the nicking, the breeding," she said. "We'll just try to keep his legacy alive."

"I'm sure he has something to do with all of this. He loved his Pennsylvania-breds, loved his young horses, did a lot of research with his broodmares and he loved the whole Pennsylvania program. Every time we win a race we go, 'Bill, what are you doing?' "

– Trainer Dee Curry, about owner/breeder Bill Brady

Brady lived in Malvern, Pa., graduated from St. Joseph's University and was a success in business with Delaware Management Company. He cheered for the Philadelphia teams (especially the Phillies), played golf and spent time at the beach. In addition to his wife of 58 years, survivors include sons Michael, Mark and Brian, a sister and eight grandchildren. His obituary included, "Heaven just got a great and wonderful man."

His horses no doubt miss him too. Curry appreciates the chance to keep Brady's program going and is sure he would be proud. The women could have sent the horses through a sales ring and watched them go in all directions. Instead, Curry and Hillman get to play parts in something special.

"I'm sure he has something to do with all of this," Curry said. "He loved his Pennsylvania-breds, loved his young horses, did a lot of research with his broodmares and he loved the whole Pennsylvania program. Every time we win a race we go, 'Bill, what are you doing?' "

The facts? The horses are OK. Curry took her time, brought them along slowly as 2-year-olds in 2023 and spotted them right.

Dropline, out of the Lemon Drop Kid mare Sour Lemon Drop, won by 5½ lengths Feb. 26. The dark bay stalked in second early and powered away in the stretch to earn $42,000. All American Rod, out of the Quiet American mare All American Blond, took longer to come to the races but made up for lost time this winter. His maiden win came against Pennsylvania-breds Feb. 6, in a 35-1 shocker. A month later, the only 3-year-old in a nine-horse allowance for state-breds won again – leading throughout to score by a length at 18-1.

"They had some decent works and everything was falling into place," Curry said. "No shins, no coughs, no sicknesses, stuff that doesn't normally happen when you have babies."

Patience paid off with All American Rod, a May foal.

"His knees were wide open when we got him in, and I had to explain that to new owners," Curry said. "I just told them that he might take some time. He was small, a little guy. They were patient and they could see him really growing. Now he's filled out so much, we waited for his knees to close before we did any serious work with him and that's why he didn't make it to the races until this year."

The dark bay added a small spark to the twilight of Rimrod's stallion career. The 24-year-old son of Danzig stands at Castle Rock and has been represented by tiny crops for several years. According to The Jockey Club statistics, he is responsible for three named foals born in 2021, zero in 2020, two in 2019. He is represented by one 2-year-old of 2024, and a single yearling.

Initially raced in Europe by breeder George Strawbridge Jr., Rimrod won two stakes and placed in a Group 3 before two American starts in 2004 and 2005. His dam Annie Edge (Ire) won two graded stakes in the U.S. and produced eight winners, six of them stakes winners, topped by European champion and leading sire Selkirk. Rimrod joined the Castle Rock roster in 2006 and his leading progeny include $617,366-earner Lenape Rim and $446,659-earner Checkbouncin Billy. His runners have proven plenty durable with 1,770 starts and 196 wins through March 12.

The blip of 2024 success won't send vans full of mares to Peter Giangiulio's farm, but it sure can't hurt. Rimrod was scheduled to breed his first mare of 2024 March 13 and he continues to defy Father Time while enjoying Castle Rock's atmosphere. The stallions have stalls and access to individual paddocks. Where they live is up to them.

"The only time he's in his stall is when I feed him," said Hillman. "He's in great shape. To look at him, you'd think early teens, not 24. He's very easy to deal with, a good breeder, gets mares in foal. He's tough in his own way and his kids are all tough too."

Parx Notes

The stakes calendar kicked off with two $75,000 races for 3-year-olds March 5. Cash is King and LC Racing home-

EQUINE DISCOUNTS
Exclusive Savings for the Horse World!
odp BUSINESS SOLUTIONS
BIG ASS FANS
JOHN DEERE
SHERWIN WILLIAMS
FARMERS INSURANCE
NTRA
As a member of NTRA,
you are eligible for these discounts
Call 866-678-4289 to start saving!
EquineDiscounts.com
@myequinediscounts

bred Jeanne Marie took the Main Line for fillies, leading all the way to win by 2½ lengths for trainer Butch Reid. The Pennsylvania-bred daughter of Speightster won for the second time in three starts while making her 2024, and stakes, debut . . . The City of Brotherly Love for males went to Washington-bred Lonesome Boy, who upset New York shipper Guanare in a 6¾-length romp for owner John Parker and trainer Hugo Padilla. Lonesome Boy, a son of former Washington-based stallion Nationhood, won for the third time in 10 starts . . . Curry's barn added a fourth win on the year (from eight starts) when Why Not Babe scored March 12 for owner Ghost Pines. The 5-year-old Weigelia mare captured a non-winners of two $5,000 claimer by a nose. The four wins are Curry's most since she won 15 in 2019 . . . Ten-year-old Sevier won his 30th race March 12, wiring eight others in a $7,500 claimer, his 77th start, for trainer Jamie Ness and partners Morris Kernan Jr. and Yo Berbs Racing. The son of Union Rags has won at least two races a year since making his debut in 2017. In 2021, he ranked in a tie for second by wins nationally after having won 11 of 14 starts (with two seconds). The most recent win lifted the Kentucky-bred's career earnings to $785,791. ■

Environmentally Sensitive Company

Horse Manure Removal

Fastrak Express, Inc.
Hy-Tech Mushroom Compost, Inc.

West Grove, PA Rising Sun, MD

15 Horse Minimum • Straw Only

(800) 529-2146 • (410) 658-0520

Certified Commercial Manure Broker

www.fastrakexpress.com

Helmore Farm

Specializing in starting horses for the track and restarting OTTB's for new careers

Great space for layups with small paddocks and a solid round pen
Located in Baltimore County, 10 minutes from Pimlico, 35 from Laurel, and 1hr and 10 from Delaware Park.

Call Becky Cory today for details and pricing–
410-259-3516

Work. Horse.

Your favorite barn buddy is here.

A new John Deere Gator™ Utility Vehicle is the answer to all barn chores. From cleaning stalls and feeding the horses, to a comfortable seat for the trainer who does-the-most.

We have an extensive line-up of 2-, 3-, and 4-passenger work horses specifically designed for you.

To learn more about how you can save up to 28% on new John Deere equipment, call 1-866-678-4289 or visit JohnDeere.com/Equine today!

SCAN ME

NTRA

EQUINE DISCOUNTS

The Steeplechase Times

Seeing is Believing

IN THE 1920S, ORACLE II WAS A MARYLAND HUNT CUP STAR

By Joe Clancy

The best Maryland Hunt Cup winner most people don't know? Clearly, that's a matter of your relationship with the great race and personal preference. First run in 1894, the 4-mile timber classic is North America's oldest steeplechase race and one of the world's great Thoroughbred events. Some people know it intimately. Others have never heard of it.

And, even if you fall somewhere in the middle, Oracle II may have eluded your attention.

A Hunt Cup hero of the early 1920s, the gray gelding made six trips to the post for owner May Muurling Maddux of Virginia – winning twice and tasting defeat four times in a variety of unfortunate ways.

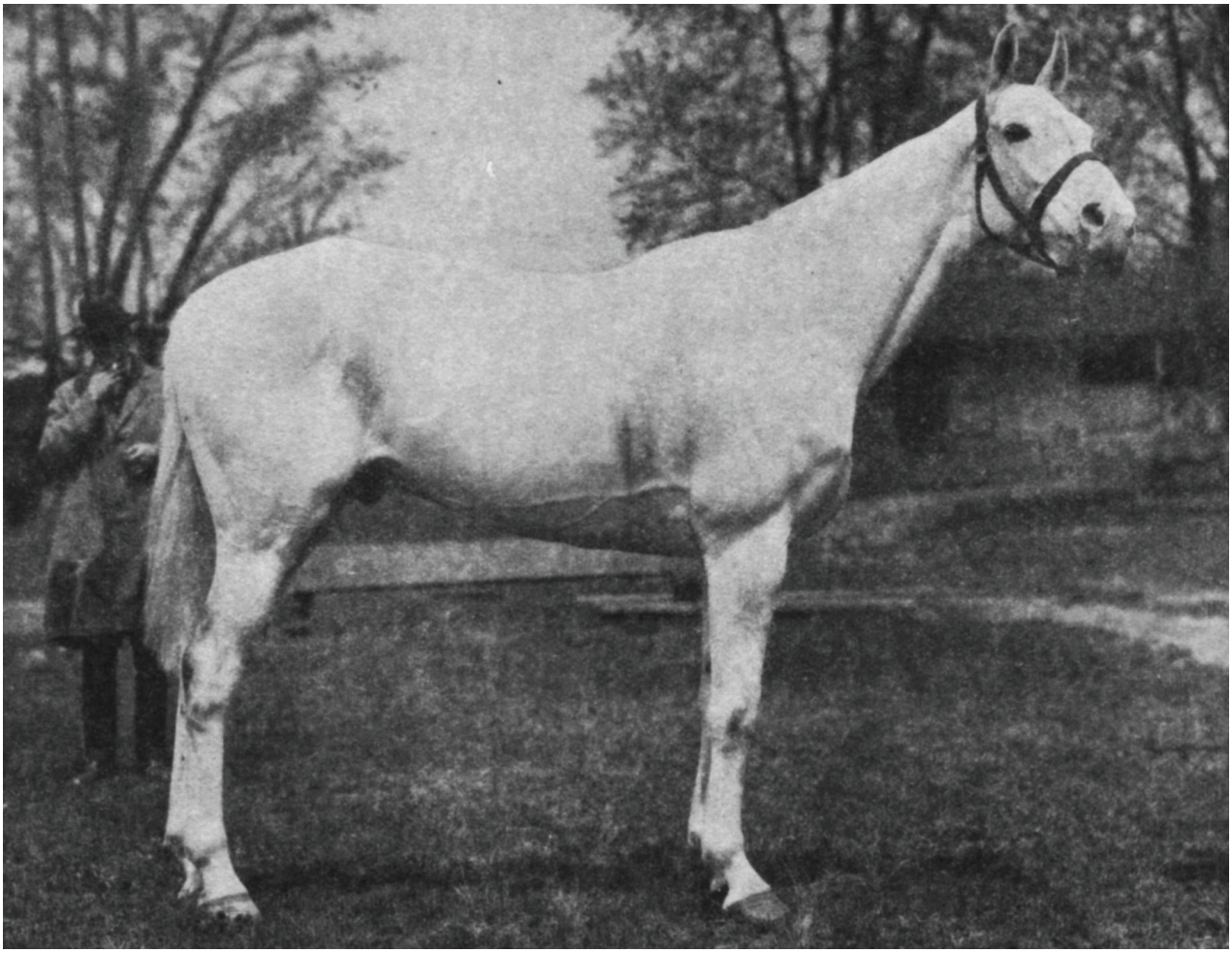
Like many things regarding Hunt Cup history, Oracle II connects to foxhunting and follows a meandering path through history.

In 1909, I. J. R. Muurling (a Dutch chemist, sportsman and the second president of the United Hunts Racing Association) purchased ex-racehorse Oxford as a birthday present for his daughter. Then married to James Kerfoot Maddux, an early master of the Warrenton Hunt, May Maddux was fond of gray hunters. Oxford was gray and a stallion. His mating with Little Gold produced a colt at the family's Neptune Lodge home in Warrenton in 1910. Black with a blaze and white ankles behind, Oracle II soon turned gray. The horse became May Maddux's hunter as a 4-year-old and was a regular with the Orange County and Middleburg hounds for 16 seasons before, during and after his racing career. They also competed with success in the show ring.

The Madduxes divorced in 1914, according to a *New York Times* article, and Oracle II continued his progression as a hunter, show horse and – eventually – standout timber horse for experienced horseman Frank Helm, who oversaw May Maddux's stable. In the 1954 book *History of the Maryland Hunt Cup*, author John Rossell Jr. wrote that Helm cared for Oracle II's sire and dam and raised the future Hunt Cup winner. Trainers were infrequently listed in early Hunt Cup results, but Helm's 1947 obituary on the front page of *The Fauquier Democrat* gave him credit.

In 1920, Oracle II came to the Hunt Cup as something of an unknown. Run at the Hampton Estate in Dulaney Valley, the race attracted 13 starters. Margery Jaque, Masterful and *Wolverton II went to the front and built a long early lead. Then chaos started. *Wolverton II tried to refuse and bumped Margery Jaque into a ditch. Undaunted, rider Gough Thompson remounted and – joined by Oracle II and jockey Arthur White – galloped after the leaders. Masterful and *Wolverton II led into the stiff double jump across a dirt lane, but both refused the second half of the obstacle, allowing Oracle II and Margery Jaque to catch up. *Wolverton II jumped out with a slight lead, but he and Margery Jaque were no match for Oracle II's late energy and he won with ease after 10:44. Masterful never did jump out of the double and was led back to the barn through a gate.

Oracle II and White returned the next year, at the Five Farms property of Stuart Olivier, and got caught up in a melee caused by *Wolverton II at the first fence. Mazarin avoided the trouble, inherited a big lead and was still clear despite a



CULVER

Two-time Maryland Hunt Cup winner Oracle II's conformation landed him in a book called *Thoroughbred Types*.

fall (and a remount) at the sixth. Oracle II and *Wolverton II caught up in the final stages, but Mazarin prevailed when Oracle II tried to refuse and fell three fences from the finish. *Wolverton II did the same at the last.

By 1922, the Hunt Cup returned to the Worthington Valley course – where it's been ever since – and Oracle II (this time ridden by Raymond Belmont II, who would become Maddux's husband in 1926) outran Fox Hill in the final stages to post a second win.

At the time, just Garry Owen and Princeton had won three Hunt Cups. In 1923, Oracle II set out to join them.

Despite heavy rain and fog, the race lured 20 starters. Again ridden by Belmont, Oracle II dominated, taking over on the second trip along the far side, passing early leader Daybreak and galloping in a clear victor. With the third win, Maddux became the first owner to retire the Whistler Challenge Cup, a gold-plated trophy created in 1745 and offered by former race secretary Ross Whistler in 1913.

She never took it home.

In the race's final yards, Belmont had looked back through the gloaming – just to make sure there were no challengers – and Oracle II had veered outside the finish flags. He won, easily, but was technically off course. And technically matters. Oracle II was disqualified, along with two others. Red Bud, the fourth horse to finish but the first between the flags, wound up the winner over Scotch Woodcock and *Wolverton II.

Writer John Rossell Jr. noted in his 1975 book *The Maryland Hunt Cup Past and Present* that, "It was generally admitted that the flags had been poorly placed and there was talk of rerunning the race, but nothing came of it."

Oracle II tried again in 1924 and was traveling well when he stepped into a deep, muddy spot on the course and fell

From John Rossell Jr.'s book about the Hunt Cup, Oracle II leads Fox Hill over the last fence of the 1922 Maryland Hunt Cup.

into (not over) a fence as Daybreak won. As a 15-year-old in 1925, Oracle II gave the Hunt Cup one more go and fell while advancing late in the race.

The book *Thoroughbred Types 1900-1925*, written by W. S. Vosburgh, Charles Lanier, Frank Bryan and James Cooley, paid tribute to the gallant timber campaigner and his impact on those present.

"Few more sincere tributes have been paid to a racehorse than the sad hush that came over the thousands of spectators of the Maryland Hunt Cup Race in 1925 when Oracle II . . . fell just as everyone felt that he was ready to go to the front and win for the third time."

And thus ended Oracle II's racing career. In 13 total starts, he won seven times and crossed the line first in each race without a fall or a lost rider. In addition to the Hunt Cup, he won the Maryland Grand National, Meadow Brook Hunt Cup in New York, New Jersey Hunt Cup and Between the Flags Steeplechase in Virginia.

Retired to the hunt field, and ultimately pensioned even from that endeavor, he was paraded in full tack as a 30-year-old at the Warrenton Show and, according to Rossell, "looked every inch the great horse he was."

Likewise, *Thoroughbred Types* praised Oracle II for his appearance.

"Oracle was an aristocratic animal, full of quality, with the true 'look of eagles' and with a way of going across a country in perfect consonance with his fineness. He was easily the leading horse of his day racing over timber . . . He was a racehorse and a gentleman."

Oracle II died in 1942, his obituary making the front page of *The Fauquier Democrat*. The 32-year-old horse was buried at Belray Farm in Middleburg, Va. – now the Salamander Resort and Spa – where undefeated Thoroughbred Hall of Famer Colin also lived in retirement.

"There is a grave there somewhere," said Daphne Cheatham, whose mother Bettina Belmont Ward was the daughter of Raymond Belmont II and his second wife Carolyn. After divorcing Belmont, Carolyn married Oracle II's first Hunt Cup jockey Arthur White (their son Ridgely trained horses for Rokeby Stable among others in a long career). The family tree follows many branches, but Cheatham recalled a Christmas lunch given by her grandmother where Oracle II and his Hunt Cup success featured prominently.

"She produced these trophies she had in the attic, Oracle's Hunt Cup trophies," Cheatham said in March. "She gave one to my mother and one to Ridgely, and now I have the one where Raymond Belmont rode and Ridgely's grandson Sean has the other one."

Be proud of them. ■

For more about Oracle II and other Hunt Cup heroes, see several Maryland Hunt Cup history books authored by Stuart Rose, John Rossell Jr. and Margaret Worrall at the Maryland Horse Library and Education Center.

The 127th Maryland Hunt Cup is scheduled for Saturday, April 27 at the Worthington Valley course in Glyndon. For more, see marylandhuntcup.com.

— Loose Rein —

BY VINNIE PERRONE

Free Runner

SILBERMAN SURVIVED NAZIS, BUILT CAREER, LOVED RACING

In Berlin, 1938, ashes swirled and fell to earth. An 8-year-old Jewish boy met the November horrors of Kristallnacht as Nazi troops and marauding citizens attacked evening strollers, torched synagogues, demolished businesses, schools and hospitals, desecrated cemeteries. Two months later, the death trains running and father's good clothing business in tatters, the boy and his family fled to Japan-occupied Shanghai. The Chinese port city requiring no papers, it had become a haven for 20,000 desperate European refugees.

DOUBLE J PHOTO

The family managed in Shanghai until Japanese Emperor Hirohito, at Hitler's directive, ordered Jews confined to a squalid, merciless square-mile ghetto in the Hongkou District. Rations lacking, father sold his prize stamp collection for food. With survival came instruction: A kindly Jesuit teacher allowed the German boy a desk in an English class. Words and phrases sprang to life, none sweeter than "Japan surrenders" in the summer of 1945.

Visas gained, the family sailed away in '47 and settled in New York City. At 18, the young man enrolled at Queens College, edited the campus newspaper, graduated with a degree in English, became a United States citizen, served a two-year Army tour in the Korean War, returned stateside and got a master's in journalism from the University of Missouri. He worked as a reporter and editor for *The Kansas City Star* before *The Washington Post* hired him in 1960. There he steered the financial desk, oversaw coverage of the 1984 presidential election, became deputy managing editor and scanned the sports pages for figures that best adorned them. Horses.

In 1990, Peter Silberman entered the Laurel Park press box in dark-framed glasses and shirt and tie and approached *The Washington Post* turf-writer's desk. In a solemn voice less deep and accented than Henry Kissinger's, he spoke an interest in racehorse ownership and asked to cover possibilities over lunch.

The menu offered soup and sandwiches, talk of history, philosophy, journalism, humanity and Thoroughbred claimers. A new retiree with limited means, Silberman sought recommendations for trainers skilled with less-talented runners. From a list of names, he chose John Hartsell Jr.

When sinister forces move against you, he said, they can take everything except your intellect. So Peter Silberman sought a competitive edge through knowledge – at neighborhood bridge games, at casinos, at racetracks. Sure, he loved the horses' silky form and crazy speed, the thrill of the race. But using brainpower to leverage horsepower moved him especially.

"What Peter adored was being able to look at the racing sheet and pore over it, test himself and put it into practice," said Dina Modianot-Fox, who remained a close friend of Silberman's after they divorced.

Through the early '90s, Silberman claimed and won with Triple Royalty, Friendly Intent, Gunnery Officer, Wages, and lost most to other claim-hungry horsemen. Then came Whitfield Lady.

He and Hartsell considered the filly an unpolished gem when they took her for $6,500 in her third start. Her sire, Gold Crest, had won Ireland's Group 2 Beresford Stakes when undefeated at 2. Her stakes-placed dam, Michigan-bred Santa Rosalia, descended from the Nearco line as a daughter of Bold Bidder. And Whitfield Lady had a turn of foot.

Through 14 starts in a single season, 1992, she won three races and finished second twice, each of the five a nose decision. Hard as she tried, she essentially remained a low-level claimer, but her heart touched Silberman's. He likened Whitfield Lady and her stablemates to the unknown heroes who'd risked much to help his family gain passage out of Germany.

In October 1992, California jockey Kent Desormeaux jetted back to his launching pad to work seven Pimlico programs including the Maryland Million. Three years earlier he'd smashed Chris McCarron's single-season record by riding 597 winners, and his return brought new pep to Old Hilltop. Desormeaux had ridden a few for Hartsell that magical year and agreed to take Whitfield Lady through a $5,000 claimer, the finale on a Thursday card.

"For some reason on that day at Pimlico, Desormeaux decided to stick around after riding some earlier races and accept the mount on my filly," Silberman wrote in a newspaper essay. "In the gathering October gloom, Desormeaux gave her an inspired ride and she crossed the line a winner.

"What stays with me to this day was not the victory itself but Desormeaux's reaction in the winner's circle afterward. I congratulated him, we shook hands and he said, 'Thank you for the opportunity to ride your horse.' It wasn't the Kentucky Derby or one of the super-rich races in California. But it was a moment of grace and class in the minor leagues of horse ownership."

In her fervor to win, Whitfield Lady emerged injured and raced no more. Even so, the events so absorbed Silberman that he wrote the op-ed 19 months later, Derby Day 1994. A hard-boiled, calculated, bottom-line owner turned free-spending racing romantic, he'd kept Whitfield Lady as a broodmare; she delivered her first foal, a filly, 10 days after the essay appeared.

Under the headline "Sport of Kings-for-a-Day," Silberman celebrated racehorse virtues and the nondescript claimers who, like the Nazi resistance fighters, served as unheralded saviors, the everyday heroes. He ascribed "limited means and exorbitant hopes" to most horse owners and added, "They simply love horses, or the thrill of competition, or the grace and stoutness of heart that characterize most Thoroughbreds, no matter how limited their ability."

DOUBLE J PHOTO

One of Whitfield Lady's progeny, Bobsingstheblues, won two for trainer Katy Voss in 1999 before heading to the barn of steeplechase trainer Jimmy Day.

Whitfield Lady produced four racing proletariats. The Vaal Reef filly Our Lady Barbara, owned by Silberman and former *Kansas City Star* colleague Bob Pearman, began her career in the Katy Voss stable and ended it elsewhere a 15-start maiden. Bobsingstheblues (by Opening Verse) won on the flat for Voss and over jumps for Jimmy Day. Whitfield Valay (Ameri Valay), sold by Silberman after two off-the-board performances, finished 2-for-29. Tomboy Lady (Corridor Key) managed one victory for owner/trainer Hubert "Butch" Cave.

Silberman's disciplined approach yielding to whimsy, he kept the racing bug long after exiting as owner/breeder. Into his 90s, Modianot-Fox said, he'd drive from his Washington, D.C., apartment to Laurel Park most Saturdays, savor a cigar on the way and play the horses.

"He loved it," Modianot-Fox said of the racing game. "Cost him dearly," meaning financially.

To that end, Silberman proceeded on his terms – his liberated, self-determined, unopposed terms. Decades after he and his family fled Germany in fear and desperation, he was thrilled to let the horses do the running.

Before his death Feb. 8 from sepsis and Covid-19 at age 93, Peter Silberman had arranged one last visit to the racetrack. On Feb. 21, near the stately white post of the Laurel Park finish line, his ashes swirled and fell to earth. ■

Vinnie Perrone's Loose Rein will appear periodically in Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred.

Maryland Horse®

April 2024 *Official publication of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association; Vol. 89, No. 4*

Maryland Horse Breeders Association Inc.
321 Main Street
Reisterstown, MD 21136
410-252-2100
www.marylandthoroughbred.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Kent Allen Murray
President
Christine W. Holden
Vice-president
William K. Boniface
Secretary-treasurer
Cricket Goodall
Executive director
George Adams, T.J. Albert*, Amy O. Burk, Henry S. "Tim" Clark III, Charles C. Fenwick Jr., Michael Harrison DVM, Lisa Golden Hofstetter, Tim Hopkins*, Ann B. Jackson, TK Kuegler, Grace Merryman, Gina Robb, Thomas J. Rooney, Adair B. Stifel
**president appointed*

DIRECTORS EMERITUS
(served 18 years)
J. William Boniface, R. Thomas Bowman, King T. Leatherbury, Donald P. Litz Jr., Ann Merryman, Michael Pons, James B. Steele, Katharine M. Voss

ADVISORY COUNCIL
(past MHBA presidents)
Richard F. Blue Jr., J. William Boniface, William K. Boniface, Frank A. Bonsal, R. Thomas Bowman, Hal C.B. Clagett III, Kimball C. Firestone, Michael Harrison DVM, King T. Leatherbury, J.W.Y. Martin Jr., Joseph P. Pons Jr., Michael Pons, Katharine M. Voss, Robert B. White

Maryland-bred full-siblings shine during nine-day streak at Laurel Park

By John Piassek

JHA Photo

Full-siblings (from left) Captain Quint with Nacho Portillo and trainer Mike Gorham, Quint's Brew with Francisco Lopez, and Touisset with Abel Portillo get together at Laurel after their wins.

Lightning struck not once, not twice, but three times for Gansett this winter at Laurel Park.

Over an nine-day stretch from Feb. 23 to March 2, the Jump Start broodmare, owned by Paul Berube, Karen Linnell and Heather Hunter, had three offspring win at Laurel Park. Five-year-old gelding Captain Quint won a Maryland-restricted allowance Feb. 23, 4-year-old filly Touisset won a non-winners of one-other-than allowance March 1, and 3-year-old Quint's Brew broke his maiden impressively on debut March 2. All three Maryland-breds are owned by Berube and Linnell, with Hunter owning a share of Touisset and Quint's Brew, trained by Mike Gorham and sons/daughters of Maryland stallion Mosler.

Berube, the retired president of the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau, described the achievement as "mind-boggling."

"These are horses that we bred, so they're like your own children," he said. "To have three siblings in the same barn winning three nice races, nine days apart, I don't know how often that's been accomplished in American racing."

Berube, who lives in a neighborhood across the street from the old Someday Farm in Franklin Township, Pa., didn't intend on getting into breeding when he purchased Gansett for

Jim McCue (3)

Gansett's Maryland-bred offspring (from left) Captain Quint, Quint's Brew and Touisset won at Laurel Park within eight days of each other.

$13,500 at the 2014 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May sale of 2-year-olds. The Rhode Island native named the filly in tribute to the now-defunct Ocean State track Narragansett Park, commonly known as "Gansett" to the locals, and campaigned her under DP Racing (not to be confused with the California-based partnership of the same name) with a friend. Gansett retired in early 2016 with a record of 2-0-1 in 11 starts and earnings of $56,273. Berube had grown attached to the filly and kept her as a broodmare.

"She's a good-looking mare, and had a great temperament, so I thought she'd make a nice broodmare," he said. "My then-partner at the time did not want to breed, so I bought his half out."

Berube considers her demeanor her best quality.

"When I bought her, the consignor said she has a great mind. I spent a lot of time with her at the track, and I was involved with her daily," Berube said. "She would calmly go to the track, do her business as the rider asked her to. She's a lovely mare to be around, and she's passed that on to every single one of her foals."

Berube brought on Karen Linnell, whose husband Curtis worked with Paul at TRPB, as a 25-percent partner. She followed Gansett's career on the track and considered the filly a personal favorite.

"We were always fans, we went out and cheered her on," she said. "She was the one I liked the most."

When Berube told Linnell of his breeding plans, she was interested in coming along.

After a cover to Florida-based stallion Awesome of Course did not produce a foal, Berube sent her to the Mid-Atlantic. He was intrigued by a news item extolling the virtues of then-new Country Life Farm stallion Mosler. The story noted how Country Life was interested in breeding him with A.P. Indy-line mares. Berube considered Gansett, by A.P. Indy's son Jump Start, a good fit. Country Life concurred and bought in for 25 percent. Gansett went on to deliver her first three foals at Country Life.

Gansett's first mating to Mosler produced a colt named Pawtuck Feb. 6, 2018. Five days short of a year later, Captain Quint, named for the Narragansett Beer-drinking shark hunter in the movie *Jaws*, was born. Pawtuck, who ultimately went unraced, sold for $4,500 at the 2019 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale, which caused Berube and Linnell to become uneasy with the breed-to-sell philosophy. The partnership with Country Life ended amicably, but not before two more matings with Mosler. The third produced Touisset (named for Touisset Point in Rhode Island), foaled March 29, 2020, while the fourth full-sibling, Quint's Brew, was born April 3, 2021, at Northview Stallion Station.

By the time of Quint's Brew's birth, Heather Hunter of Spinnaker Hill Farm in West Grove, Pa., had come on board as a partner, purchasing 25 percent of Gansett, Touisset and Quint's Brew.

"At this point, we were boarding her at Spinnaker Hill with Heather and [her husband] Tuck," said Linnell. "We already knew them, because our sons grew up together, and my husband and Tuck had previously coached football together. We already had a relationship with them, and then Paul found them as a place to board. When Country Life wanted out, they said they'd like to buy in."

Gansett still lives at Spinnaker Hill, returning to Maryland once a year to foal and qualify her foals for Maryland-bred status.

Captain Quint, Touisset and Quint's Brew started their race training at Sylmar Farm in Christiana, Pa. Captain Quint, unraced at 2, made it to the races first, finishing fifth in a $25,000 maiden claiming race at Laurel Jan. 30, 2022, for trainer McLane Hendriks. After five starts for the Fair Hill-based Hendriks, Berube and Linnell noticed that Captain Quint didn't appreciate the travel from Fair Hill to Laurel.

"He had a few little trailer issues, he got hurt a couple times, scrapes and that kind of stuff," said Linnell. "We took him to Sylmar, gave him a bit of rehab time, and when we were out there, we decided to take him to a trainer based at a track, take the trailer issue out of it, and see what we have."

Captain Quint, along with then-2-year-old Touisset, moved to Gorham.

"They're all level-headed horses," said the trainer. "They're somewhat similar. They're all easy to train, really good to handle, all do what they're supposed to do. No one's too tough."

Touisset was the first to break her maiden, at second asking at Delaware Park Nov. 3, 2022. Captain Quint followed at Laurel Jan. 28, 2023. He won again the next month and finished 2023 with two wins and a third in seven starts. Away from the races between late September and early February, he finished second in a $40,000 non-winners of three claiming race in his return Feb. 10, then pulled the 14-1 upset 13 days later, rallying from off the pace to defeat favorites Full Irish and Great Heavens. The win boosted his career record to 3-2-3 in 17 starts with earnings of $124,959.

"He was training good," said Gorham of Captain Quint, nicknamed "Budweiser" around the barn (his younger brother is "Bud Light"). "He ran a good second off the layoff, and I think that race really tightened him up. He settled at the back of the pack, made a big move, and won pretty easily."

Captain Quint was considered smart and people-oriented as a youngster.

"His mom would get mad at him because he'd keep following us to the gate," said Linnell. "He wintered with some yearlings at Woodvale Farm [in Elk Township, Pa.] and we'd go out and see him. There was a little paddock near the field he lived in, and he was smart enough to figure out that if he beat the other yearlings in, he could be the first one into that paddock and get one-on-

one time. He's always been one of those horses where if he knew what you wanted him to do, he'd do it, and if he didn't do it, you were asking him wrong."

Linnell described Captain Quint, the largest of the three at more than 1,200 pounds, as the "problem child," relatively speaking. Various issues in different races, from bumps to lost shoes to a desire to wait on other horses, prevented him from showing his full potential. "He doesn't like to run up between horses, but he'll go as far out as you want. There's been some learning curves with him."

Touisset has won two of her last three starts, a conditioned $25,000 claiming race at Laurel Dec. 30, then a gate-to-wire win March 1 after a third in allowance company Feb. 4. She sports a record of 14-4-1-3, with earnings of $122,570.

"She's a grand-looking filly," said Berube. "She reminds me of Gansett in her build."

"She had run a couple of good races at Laurel, and she was kind of getting better as she matures," Gorham added.

Even though Quint's Brew is the least experienced of the trio, he has attracted the most attention. His 3-length maiden win over a sloppy track earned a Beyer figure of 88, the same figure as Dornoch in the Fountain of Youth-G2 later that day at Gulfstream Park.

"He's done everything right since the day I had him," said Gorham. "You can do anything you want with him. He's easy to ride, easy to train. I think being real level-headed helped him first time out."

Linnell said Gorham's staff was optimistic about a pending debut for the kid brother thanks to a Jan. 31 breeze.

"The barn crew told us he was good," she said. "They worked Quint and Brew together, and that day, they finished first of 44 works at the distance (a half-mile in :48), and they said they thought Brew was better. They were high on him, but in their first start, you want them to just get out there and have a positive experience. We were thrilled when he won."

The team is preaching patience with Quint's Brew, but his maiden win is nonetheless cause for optimism.

"The second and third race will tell more of the tale," said Berube. "You can't make a career out of one race, but it blew me away, the way he went. He took charge of the race in a very splendid time considering the track. He didn't get anxious over anything, he was unflappable. He saddled standing still, never flicked his ears, and loaded and stood in the gate. That mind comes from Gansett."

As for Gansett, she was bred to Holy Boss for 2022, and produced a colt that May who passed from colic three months later. She was not bred for 2023, and as of mid-March was expecting another Holy Boss foal at Anchor and Hope Farm. ❧

Registration questions?

•

Membership inquiries?

Call the MHBA office
410.252.2100

What's happening at the library

The calendar at the Maryland Horse Library and Education Center in Reisterstown. All events are free.

Monday, April 22, 6 p.m. ***Designing with Nature: The Plan for the Valleys.***

To recognize the importance of land conservation and to commemorate Earth Day, the documentary *Designing with Nature: The Plan for the Valleys* will be shown. To celebrate its 50th anniversary, the Valleys Planning Council commissioned independent filmmaker Allen Moore to film a documentary that celebrates the successes of the Valleys Planning Council in land-use planning in Baltimore County over five decades.

Monday, April 29, 4 p.m. "Woodlands and Wildflowers" talk with Dr. Clare Walker.

Dr. Clare Walker, a Maryland Master Gardener and instructor for the Master Naturalist Program as well as manager of Irvine Nature Center's native woodland gardens and its public programs, will visit the Weinberg woodland garden to walk, talk and explore the myriad ways wildflowers and wildlife interact, whether for food, pollination, or seed dispersal.

Wednesday, May 8, 5:30 p.m. – Connecting Communities: Agritourism Seminar

A Howard and Sondra Bender Educational Series event. Learn from The Farmyard's Renee Wilson and Fairwinds Stable's Joann Dawson as they dive into the subject and share their experiences from their farms.

For videos of educational events, see marylandhorse.com/benderseries

Wednesday, May 15, Thursday, May 16, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Second annual duplicate book sale

A large collection of classics, many out-of-print, as well as newer offerings will be available for purchase at bargain prices.

Books topics include training racehorses from the perspective of Thoroughbred Hall of Famers to studying pedigrees; breeding theories from the greats like Federico Tesio, to farm and barn management.

A small sampling of titles available include:

- Racing history books, including William H.P. Robertson's *The History of Thoroughbred Racing in America* and David Woods' *Fireside Book of Horse Racing*;
- Select years of the annual *American Race Horses* (published from 1936 to 1963), *American Racing Manuals* and *Steeplechasing in America* yearbooks.

Visit marylandhorse.com for more information on these and other events. ❧

Maryland Horse
LIBRARY
AND EDUCATION CENTER

Maryland-bred Stakes Winners

Jaxon Traveler shows no signs of slowing down

Renee Torbit

Veteran sprinter Jaxon Traveler recorded three stakes wins in four starts, topped by the Whitmore Stakes-G3 at Oaklawn Park in Hot Springs, Ark., March 16. That followed a score in the Bill Thomas Memorial at Sunland Park Feb. 18 and the Zia Park Sprint in his final start of 2023.

The 2024 success extended his stakes-winning streak to five years, and the 6-year-old added his first graded win since 2022 in the $250,000 Whitmore. Taking on a solid field of sprinters, Jaxon Traveler stalked to the outside as co-favorite and stablemate Ryvit set early fractions, went for the lead at the top of the stretch, and battled 2023 winner Tejano Twist to the wire to win in a head bob in 1:10.04 for 6 furlongs. The victory pushed Jaxon Traveler to $891,849 in lifetime earnings.

In the Bill Thomas, Jaxon Traveler set every fraction and drew off to win by 3 lengths going 6½ furlongs while adding an 11th track to his 28-start resume.

Maryland-bred champion male at 2 and 3, the son of Munnings has 21 top-three placings, including six stakes wins. He won all three starts at 2 in 2020, topped by the Maryland Juvenile Futurity, came back the next year to win the Bachelor at Oaklawn Park and Star de Naskra at Pimlico, and at 4 earned his first graded stakes victory in the Maryland Sprint-G3 at Pimlico on the Preakness undercard. Last year he recorded a single win in four starts, the Zia Park Sprint in late November.

Trained by Steve Asmussen, Jaxon Traveler is owned by West Point Thoroughbreds, who bought him for $140,000 the OBS April sale of 2-year-olds. As a yearling, he went for $80,000 to Grassroots Training and Sales at the Keeneland September.

The big-bodied dark bay, bred by Drs. A. Leonard Pineau Jr. and his wife, Patricia, is out of the After Market mare Listen Boy. The Sagamore Farm homebred earned $61,950 in her nine-race career and was stakes-placed. The Pineaus purchased her in 2015 while carrying her second foal (by Street Boss) at Keeneland November for $26,000.

All six of Listen Boy's foals of racing age are winners. Her other six-figure earners are Nuclear Option (First Defence), an 11-time winner of $423,951; and My Candy Girl (Twirling Candy), a six-time winner of $222,831. Current 3-year-old Brysons Option (Cross Traffic) broke his maiden at Laurel Park in December.

Listen Boy has an unnamed 2-year-old colt by Liam's Map, and a "lovely chestnut filly by [first-year Munnings son] Jack Christopher born Feb. 1," said Patricia Pineau. The mare is being bred back to Jack Christopher. ❧

– In memoriam –

Dorothy Troutman

Dorothy Troutman had many chapters in her life of 101 years. She was best known in Maryland's horse industry for enterprising roles as the founder of the Maryland Horse Council, Maryland Equestrian Foundation, Rosaryville Conservancy and the Marlborough Horse Trials, being instrumental in the development of the Prince George's Equestrian Center (on the site of the old half-miler Marlboro Race Course), and was a founding and longtime Maryland Horse Industry Board member. She died at Glennwood Farm in Upper Marlboro Jan. 31.

A civic activist who became an expert in zoning laws for Prince George's County and coined the phrase "Keep Marlboro Country," she would testify at zoning

hearings before the County Council and Park and Planning Commission. Her involvement began when commercial development and urban sprawl threatened her neighborhood.

Troutman was born in May 1922 in Iowa, the daughter of a veterinarian. Her family described her life in an obituary noting she attended a one-room school house, became valedictorian of her high school, learned to write Gregg Shorthand and was the Iowa Shorthand state champion, and moved to Hollywood, Calif., by the age of 18.

She performed a vaudeville act on the West Coast as a whistler, backed by an orchestra, worked at Selznick Studios, and later for the FBI. She met George Troutman, an Army Air Corps bomber pilot, at a bus stop at Hollywood and Vine and married him in 1946. Ralph Edwards, host of the radio game show *Truth or Consequences*, was the best man.

When her husband took a job in Washington, D.C., as a lobbyist for the Air Force and worked at the Pentagon, the Troutman family, which included three children, settled in Maryland, establishing Glennwood Farm in 1971. In *The Equiery* in 2020, Troutman said, "It was my daughters who really loved horses, so we started this farm for them."

Troutman received the MHC's Pumphrey Memorial Award in 1998 and was presented the Outstanding Civic Achievement Award from the Greater Prince George's Business Roundtable in 2014.

Another enduring legacy is Rosaryville State Park, home of Mount Airy Mansion. She stepped in when the state was preparing to shutter the mansion and park and helped form the Rosaryville Conservancy to run the property. With an emphasis on activities such as horse trials, hunter paces, fox hunting and trail riding, the park remains open and is the site of the Marlborough Horse Trials. ❧

Maryland Fund Report

Bonuses paid for races run
in December 2023 at Maryland tracks

Maryland Juvenile Championship Stakes

December 2. Purse $100,000-guaranteed. For 2-year-olds, registered Maryland-bred or Maryland sired. 7 fur. 8 competed. (Closed with 28 nominations.) Winner: CIRCLE P, by Speightster. Breeder bonus: Marathon Farm Inc. ($13,500). Stallion bonus: None. Second: CATAHOULA MOON, by Golden Lad. Breeder bonus: Angela B. Coombs ($4,500). Stallion bonus: Golden Lad Syndicate ($1,500). Third: SPEEDYNESS, by Great Notion. Breeder bonus: Jagger Inc. ($2,250). Stallion bonus: Great Notion Syndicate ($750).

Maryland Juvenile Filly Championship Stakes

December 2. Purse $100,000-guaranteed. For 2-year-old fillies, registered Maryland-bred or Maryland sired. 7 fur. 8 competed. (Closed with 20 nominations.) Winner: KISSEDBYANANGEL, by Golden Lad. Breeder bonus: Super C Racing Inc. ($13,500). Stallion bonus: Golden Lad Syndicate ($4,500). Second: SHEILAHS WARCLOUD, by Madefromlucky. Breeder bonus: Dr. Megan Kerford DVM and Justin J. Nixon ($4,500). Stallion bonus: Madefromlucky Syndicate ($1,500). Third: BIG EARN, by Warrior's Reward. Breeder bonus: Helen C. Marshall ($2,250). Stallion bonus: None.

Breeder bonuses

Includes the additional 10 percent Maryland-sired bonus for winners of maiden races, initiated Jan. 1 during the 2022 Laurel winter meet. That bonus is reflected in the second figure earned for the race.

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—Boss Man J J: Dec. 2, 4th race, $810.

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc. and Copper Penny Stables—Angel Art: Dec. 3, 8th race, $2,160.

Barak Farm—Fivecommatwo: Dec. 2, 2nd race, $1,215. One Ten: Dec. 16, 4th race, $1,800. Royal Whisper: Dec. 10, 1st race, $1,440; Dec. 23, 2nd race, $1,800. ($6,255)

Barak Farm and Dinos Thoroughbreds LLC—Alottacents: Dec. 15, 7th race, $1,080; Dec. 31, 5th race, $585. ($1,665)

Barak Farm and Sharon Dodgen—Backnthewoods: Dec. 16, 7th race, $1,305.

William Bayne and Super C Racing—Burningupthedough: Dec. 30, 9th race, $3,375/$1,125. Champagne Dance: Dec. 29, 5th race, $810. ($5,310)

BB Horses—Royal Seamstress: Dec. 1, 3rd race, $4,860/$1,620. ($6,480)

Patricia Beck and Richard C. Beck—Daily Planet: Dec. 8, 1st race, $585; Dec. 31, 2nd race, $1,170. ($1,755)

Teresa L. Beste—Dalinar: Dec. 17, 7th race, $1,980.

Black Fox Farm—Remembering Wilbur: Dec. 10, 6th race, $2,430. Dec. 29, 4th race, $2,970. ($5,400)

Charles Blanford—Go Sherry Go: Dec. 15, 4th race, $990.

Bonita Farm—Never Done: Dec. 9, 9th race, $3,645.

Richard H. Bosshard Jr.—Return Fire: Dec. 2, 1st race, $1,125; Dec. 23, 3rd race, $1,125. ($2,250)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman—Gabriel Seven: Dec. 8, 5th race, $1,125; Dec. 30, 9th race, $1,125. Old Bay: Dec. 2, 3rd race, $7,020/$2,340. ($11,610)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman—Battle of Bastogne: Dec. 22, 3rd race, $3,375/$1,125. Whatsyourbigidea: Dec. 10, 4th race, $1,935. ($6,435)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Quin Bowman and Rebecca Davis—Clubman: Dec. 31, 5th race, $3,510.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Michael Bishop and Milton P. Higgins III—Still Game: Dec. 23, 5th race, $2,430.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Rebecca Davis—Double Crown: Dec. 23, 8th race, $13,500. Nami: Dec. 15, 9th race, $1,305. ($14,805)

Bowman and Higgins Stable—Congress Hall: Dec. 30, 2nd race, $765. K Kake Pop: Dec. 16, 1st race, $1,980. Master of None: Dec. 9, 2nd race, $1,575. Rustys Gfivefifty: Dec. 31, 5th race, $1,170. ($5,490)

Deborah A. Butts—Gilda's Girl: Dec. 9, 9th race, $1,215.

CandyLand Farm—Rhumjar: Dec. 3, 7th race, $2,160.

Wes Carter—El Divino Nino: Dec. 30, 3rd race, $7,020/ $2,340. ($9,360)

Chanceland Farm—Full Irish: Dec. 17, 3rd race, $7,020/$2,340. ($9,360)

Angela B. Coombs—Catahoula Moon: Dec. 2, 8th race, $4,500.

Cottonwood Stable LLC—Seven's Eleven: Dec. 22, 7th race, $7,830.

Country Life Farm—Ace Nine Nine: Dec. 3, 4th race, $3,510; Dec. 22, 5th race, $585. ($4,095)

Country Life Farm and Basedonatruestory LLC—Sheherhers: Dec. 2, 9th race, $810.

Country Life Farm, Paul Berube and Karen Linnel—Touisset: Dec. 30, 1st race, $4,860.

Country Life Farm and Imagistic Broodmare II LLC—Divine Romance: Dec. 10, 4th race, $967.50.

Country Life Farm and Real Good Time LLC—Bill of Rights: Dec. 1, 9th race, $1,260.

Country Life Farm and Rock Sapphire LLC—I Wanna Rock: Dec. 9, 6th race, $562.50.

Country Roads Ltd.—My Flicker: Dec. 23, 2nd race, $5,400.

Dark Hollow Farm—Maryland Moon: Dec. 9, 6th race, $1,125; Dec. 29, 9th race, $3,375. Oxide: Dec. 10, 6th race, $810; Dec. 29, 6th race, $2,295. Whiskeyinthejaro: Dec. 15, 2nd race, $3,915/$1,305; Dec. 30, 5th race, $900. ($13,725)

Dark Hollow Farm, D. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. David Schwaber, et al—Destination: Dec. 29, 3rd race, $2,340.

Annette Eubanks—Lookin for Justice: Dec. 29, 6th race, $765.

Annette Eubanks and Daniel Eubanks—Band Camp: Dec. 22, 3rd race, $1,125.

Steve R. Ferguson—Lady Charlotte: Dec. 2, 9th race, $4,860/$1,620. ($6,480)

Gainesway Thoroughbreds Limited—Dancinonthebeach: Dec. 22, 6th race, $3,105

Robert E. Gamber—I Can Do It: Dec. 17, 9th race, $3,915. Oboy: Dec. 15, 3rd race, $517.50. ($4,432.50)

Glenangus Farm LLC—Grand Manner: Dec. 15, 8th race, $1,170. Proper Storm: Dec. 16, 2nd race, $540. R B's Big Moment: Dec. 22, 1st race, $562.50. ($2,272.50)

Greycross Stable LLC—Bay Street: Dec. 8, 8th race, $1,080.

Maria M. Haire—Neolithica: Dec. 9, 3rd race, $3,510.

Hillwood Stable LLC—Battling Time: Dec. 15, 4th race, $5,940/$1,980. ($7,920)

Holly House Farm—Arden'sluckytobe: Dec. 8, 7th race, $2,430.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Holt and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Palumbo—Blue Trillion: Dec. 8, 3rd race, $1,170. Shinelikeadiamond: Dec. 3, 8th race, $6,480. ($7,650)

Ann B. Jackson—Albert Finnigan: Dec. 3, 3rd race, $2,340.

Jagger Inc.—Kick Startness: Dec. 3, 1st race, $1,620. Little Lance: Dec. 3, 5th race, $1,800. Paco the Taco Man: Dec. 3, 5th race, $900. Silverbullettwenty: Dec. 3, 1st race, $4,860/$1,620. Speedyness: Dec. 2, 8th race, $2,250. ($13,050)

Jagger Inc. and Pete Mattson—Rubys Flash: Dec. 15, 5th race, $1,552.50.

Jagger Inc. and Super C Racing Inc.—Goldieness: Dec. 15, 1st race, $1,620; Dec. 30, 1st race, $810. ($2,430)

Janice J. and Edwin C. Jenkins—Prins Fire: Dec. 1, 2nd race, $1,035. Dec. 22, 9th race, $1,035. ($2,070)

R. Larry Johnson—By Its Absence: Dec. 1, 9th race, $3,780. Despite Odds: Dec. 1, 9th race, $630; Dec. 17, 1st race, $3,240. Great Heavens: Dec. 29, 7th race, $2,430. Medagooch: Dec. 31, 3rd race, $1,620. ($11,700)

Karmac Stables LLC—Prado Road: Dec. 17, 7th race, $5,940/$1,980. ($7,920)

Dr. Megan Kerford DVM and Justin J. Nixon—Sheilahs Warcloud: Dec. 2, 7th race, $4,500.

Toni M. Kirwan—Vixsinzkeltkbanshe: Dec. 10, 8th race, $3,375/$1,125. ($4,500)

Toni M. Kirwan and Edward Hipps—Minxzluckystarfyre: Dec. 15, 2nd race, $652.50.

Lady Olivia at North Cliff LLC—Davyjonz: Dec. 17, 7th race, $990. Glass of Courage: Dec. 16, 3rd race, $990. ($1,980)

Carl Lanier—Box N Ben: Dec. 9, 2nd race, $787.50. Freeze the Fire: Dec. 1, 6th race, $1,080. ($1,867.50)

James Lee Lawrence II and Lawrence Stables Inc.—Caged Pixie: Dec. 30, 2nd race, $2,295. My Mamba: Dec. 1, 4th race, $630. ($2,925)

Estate of Fred T. Lewis Sr. DVM—Landon Jack: Dec. 15, 3rd race, $1,035.

Lewis Family Racing Stable—Hunter Joe: Dec. 8, 9th race, $720.

Marathon Farm Inc.—Circle P: Dec. 2, 8th race, $13,500.

Daniel E. Marconi—Bella Bettina: Dec. 16, 5th race, $7,290.

Helen C. Marshall—Big Earn: Dec. 2, 7th race, $2,250. Take Charge Too: Dec. 17, 4th race, $1,800. The Big Enchilada: Dec. 3, 9th race, $4,860/$1,620; Dec. 31, 9th race, $787.50. ($11,317.50)

Mary E. Eppler Racing Stable—Lamarvelous: Dec. 3, 7th race, $1,080.

Maryland Mare Venture LLC—Ellie Victorina: Dec. 1, 5th race, $540.

Peter D. Mattson—Minny Speightster: Dec. 30, 9th race, $562.50.

Charles C.D. McGill—Disputed Claim: Dec. 22, 4th race, $1,980.

Elizabeth M. Merryman—Enzo: Dec. 30, 3rd race, $2,340. Midnight Renegade: Dec. 31, 9th race, $4,725. ($7,065)

Mezza Luna Farm LLC—In the Dance: Dec. 30, 5th race, $5,400.

Murmur Farm—Golden Charm: Dec. 1, 3rd race, $810. Dec. 17, 9th race, $1,305. ($2,115)

No Guts No Glory Farm—Bigdaddysboy: Dec. 3, 5th race, $5,400. General J R: Dec. 29, 9th race, $1,125. Mama G's Wish: Dec. 31, 7th race, $1,440. Remember Me: Dec. 17, 5th race, $5,400. ($13,365)

Northview Stallion Station Inc.—Uncle Chinito: Dec. 8, 5th race, $562.50.

Paul O'Loughlin, David Wade and Matty Jeff Jr.—Classy Chick: Dec. 2, 3rd race, $2,340.

Douglas Oswald—Monyinthebanksey: Dec. 22, 5th race, $1,170.

Charles V. Parker—Mose Perfect: Dec. 30, 4th race, $720.

Frank A. Perri Jr.—Dwelling Legacy: Dec. 16, 1st race, $5,940/$1,980. ($7,920)

A. Leonard Pineau—Crossland: Dec. 8, 6th race, $5,940

Dr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau—Brysons Option: Dec. 16, 3rd race, $5,940.

A. John Price—Wesley Thomas: Dec. 15, 5th race, $776.25.

Charles J. Reed—Johnyz From Albany: Dec. 2, 5th race, $2,790.

Cynthia K. Rickman—Crownedcountcristo: Dec. 8, 2nd race, $2,295; Dec. 17, 2nd race, $405; Dec. 29, 4th race, $990. ($3,690)

Randy Ridgely—Finaljump: Dec. 1, 3rd race, $1,620; Dec. 23, 9th race, $810. ($2,430)

Thomas Rooney—Coffeewithchris: Dec. 31, 8th race, $1,395.

Thomas J. and Tara L. Rooney—Cuchulain: Dec. 8, 5th race, $3,375/$1,125. ($4,500)

Hamilton A. Smith—I'm Gittin There: Dec. 1, 8th race, $1,395.

Franklin G. Smith Sr.—Looking for Water: Dec. 9, 9th race, $607.50.

Bob G. Sowder—Irish Lace: Dec. 10, 2nd race, $2,430.

James B. Steele Jr.—Hampden Lane: Dec. 1, 1st race, $607.50.

Sugarland LLC Equine Etiquette—The Last Jumpstart: Dec. 3, 9th race, $810.

Super C Racing Inc.—Kissedbyanangel: Dec. 2, 7th race, $13,500.

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—Feeling Woozy: Dec. 1, 7th race, $7,830. Formal Affair: Dec. 3, 1st race, $810. Goodtimetobeirish: Dec. 31, 9th race, $1,575. John Hall: Dec. 22, 4th race, $990. Northern Glow: Dec. 8, 8th race, $6,480. Your Analysis: Dec. 3, 7th race, $6,480. ($24,165)

James F. Thames—Irish Warlock: Dec. 1, 4th race, $1,260.

Stella F. Thayer—Photo Hop: Dec. 2, 1st race, $3,375.

The Elkstone Group LLC—Red Wine Time: Dec. 8, 8th race, $2,160; Dec. 31, 2nd race, $585. ($2,745)

Thornmar Farm LLC—Great Call: Dec. 9, 6th race, $3,375/$1,125. Please Marry Me: Dec. 16, 2nd race, $1,080. Take a Hint: Dec. 1, 6th race, $2,160. ($7,740)

Two Legends Farm—Devil Pays in Gold: Dec. 2, 2nd race, $607.50; Dec. 31, 4th race, $4,725. ($5,332.50)

Walter N. Vieser II—All Threes: Dec. 8, 4th race, $2,790. Super Bourbon: Dec. 30, 6th race, $4,860. Visual Illusion: Dec. 10, 8th race, $1,125. ($8,775)

David H. Wade—Rominski: Dec. 1, 6th race, $6,480; Dec. 29, 7th race, $7,290. ($13,770)

Maureen Wade—Honor the Truth: Dec. 22, 6th race, $1,035.

Linda M. Walls—Concrete Faze: Dec. 16, 1st race, $990.

Dr. and Mrs. Bruce C. Wells—Rascally Rebel: Dec. 17, 1st race, $540. Running River: Dec. 16, 6th race, $3,780; Dec. 31, 1st race, $1,620. ($5,940)

Willow Oaks Stable LLC—Under the Radar: Dec. 30, 4th race, $1,440.

Donald Clifford Wilson—Thencomemorning: Dec. 3, 2nd race, $630.

WWCD LLC—Mattitude: Dec. 10, 5th race, $1,170.

2500 Determined Holdings—Determined Blue: Dec. 3, 6th race, $1,125; Dec. 15, 6th race, $1,305. Great Opportunity: Dec. 3, 3rd race, $7,020; Dec. 30, 8th race, $4,500. ($13,950)

Stallion bonuses

BANDBOX (Band Camp: Dec. 22, 3rd race, $375. Box N Ben: Dec. 9, 2nd race, $262.50. Paco the Taco Man: Dec. 3, 5th race, $300. Seven's Eleven: Dec. 22, 7th race, $2,610. Take a Hint: Dec. 1, 6th race, $720): Northview Stallion Station—$4,267.50.

BARBADOS (Cuchulain: Dec. 8, 5th race, $1,125. Hampden Lane: Dec. 1, 1st race, $202.50): Shamrock Farm—$1,327.50.

BLOFELD (Blue Trillion: Dec. 8, 3rd race, $390. Dwelling Legacy: Dec. 16, 1st race, $1,980. Golden Charm: Dec. 1, 3rd race, $270; Dec. 17, 9th race, $435. Johnyz From Albany: Dec. 2, 5th race, $930): Blofeld Syndicate—$4,005.

BOURBON COURAGE (Davyjonz: Dec. 17, 7th race, $330. Double Crown: Dec. 23, 8th race, $4,500. Glass of Courage: Dec. 16, 3rd race, $330. Proper Storm: Dec. 16, 2nd race, $180): Bourbon Courage Syndicate—$5,340.

BUFFUM (Shinelikeadiamond: Dec. 3, 8th race, $2,160): Buffum Syndicate.

CAGE FIGHTER (Caged Pixie: Dec. 30, 2nd race, $765): Lawrence Stables.

DESPITE THE ODDS (Despite Odds: Dec. 1, 9th race, $210; Dec. 17, 1st race, $1,080): R. Larry Johnson—$1,290.

DIVINING ROD (Champagne Dance: Dec. 29, 5th race, $270. Dancinonthebeach: Dec. 22, 6th race, $1,035. Divine Romance: Dec. 10, 4th race, $322.50. Looking for Water: Dec. 9, 9th race, $202.50. Rascally Rebel: Dec. 17, 1st race, $180. Rustys Gfivefifty: Dec. 31, 5th race, $390. Sheherhers: Dec. 2, 9th race, $270. Under the Radar: Dec. 30, 4th race, $480): Divining Rod Syndicate—$3,150.

DORTMUND (Never Done: Dec. 9, 9th race, $1,215): Kaleem S. Shah.

Maryland-bred top earners in 2024

(through March 4)

1.	Post Time	$165,000	
2.	Charming Way	96,570	
3.	Tocayo	95,700	
4.	Miss Harriett	93,810	
	Speedyness	93,810	
6.	Take a Hint	68,705	
7.	Arden'sluckytobe	67,410	
8.	Jaxon Traveler	65,850	
9.	Augustine Red	57,690	
10.	Malinois	56,580	
11.	Seven's Eleven	$55,000	
12.	Determined Driver	53,810	
13.	Daughter of Time	53,600	
14.	Frightland	51,570	
15.	Up Against It	49,680	
16.	Society Ball	48,415	
17.	Malibu Moonshine	46,320	
18.	Future Is Now	44,530	
19.	Bay Street	43,410	
20.	My Flicker	43,010	

EDITORIAL (Daily Planet: Dec. 8, 1st race, $195; Dec. 31, 2nd race, $390): Climax Stallions LLC.

FRIESAN FIRE (Burningupthedough: Dec. 30, 9th race, $1,125. Freeze the Fire: Dec. 1, 6th race, $360. Landon Jack: Dec. 15, 3rd race, $345. Prins Fire: Dec. 1, 2nd race, $345; Dec. 22, 9th race, $345. Return Fire: Dec. 2, 1st race, $375; Dec. 23, 3rd race, $375. Thencomemorning: Dec. 3, 2nd race, $210): Friesan Fire Syndicate—$3,480.

GOLDEN LAD (Albert Finnigan: Dec. 3, 3rd race, $780. Catahoula Moon: Dec. 2, 8th race, $1,500. Classy Chick: Dec. 2, 3rd race, $780. Crownedcountcristo: Dec. 8, 2nd race, $765; Dec. 17, 2nd race, $135; Dec. 29, 4th race, $330. Disputed Claim: Dec. 22, 4th race, $660. Goldieness: Dec. 15, 1st race, $540; Dec. 30, 1st race, $270. Go Sherry Go: Dec. 15, 4th race, $330. I'm Gittin There: Dec. 1, 8th race, $465. Kissedbyanangel: Dec. 2, 7th race, $4,500. Lamarvelous: Dec. 3, 7th race, $360. Old Bay: Dec. 2, 3rd race, $2,340. Oxide: Dec. 10, 6th race, $270; Dec. 29, 6th race, $765. Prado Road: Dec. 17, 7th race, $1,980. Remembering Wilbur: Dec. 10, 6th race, $810; Dec. 29, 4th race, $990. The Big Enchilada: Dec. 3, 9th race, $1,620; Dec. 31, 9th race, $262.50. Wesley Thomas: Dec. 15, 5th race, $258.75): Golden Lad Syndicate—$20,711.25.

GREAT NOTION (All Threes: Dec. 8, 4th race, $930. Battling Time: Dec. 15, 4th race, $1,980. Enzo: Dec. 30, 3rd race, $780. Great Call: Dec. 9, 6th race, $1,125. Great Heavens: Dec. 29, 7th race, $810. Kick Startness: Dec. 3, 1st race, $540. Lady Charlotte: Dec. 2, 9th race, $1,620. Mattitude: Dec. 10, 5th race, $390. My Flicker: Dec. 23, 2nd race, $1,800. Rominski: Dec. 1, 6th race, $2,160; Dec. 29, 7th race, $2,430. Speedyness: Dec. 2, 8th race, $750. Whatsyourbigidea: Dec. 10, 4th race, $645): Great Notion Syndicate—$15,960.

HOLY BOSS (Boss Man J J: Dec. 2, 4th race, $270. Crossland: Dec. 8, 6th race, $1,980. General J R: Dec. 29, 9th race, $375. Rhumjar: Dec. 3, 7th race, $720. Silverbullettwenty: Dec. 3, 1st race, $1,620): Holy Boss Syndicate—$4,965.

IMAGINING (Angel Art: Dec. 3, 8th race, $720. Bigdaddysboy: Dec. 3, 5th race, $1,800. El Divino Nino: Dec. 30, 3rd race, $2,340. In the Dance: Dec. 30, 5th race, $1,800. Little Lance: Dec. 3, 5th race, $600. Remember Me: Dec. 17, 5th race, $1,800): Imagining Syndicate—$9,060.

IRISH WAR CRY (Feeling Woozy: Dec. 1, 7th race, $2,610. Fivecommatwo: Dec. 2, 2nd race, $405. Full Irish: Dec. 17, 3rd race, $2,340. Goodtimetobeirish: Dec. 31, 9th race, $525. Irish Lace: Dec. 10, 2nd race, $810. Irish Warlock: Dec. 1, 4th race, $420. Royal Seamstress: Dec. 1, 3rd race, $1,620. Vixsinzkeltkbanshe: Dec. 10, 8th race, $1,125. Whiskeyinthejaro: Dec. 15, 2nd race, $1,305; Dec. 30, 5th race, $300): Northview Stallion Station Inc.—$11,460.

KOBE'S BACK (My Mamba: Dec. 1, 4th race, $210): Bonita Farm.

LONG RIVER (Running River: Dec. 16, 6th race, $1,260; Dec. 31, 1st race, $540): Long River Syndicate—$1,800.

MADEFROMLUCKY (Arden'sluckytobe: Dec. 8, 7th race, $810. Minxzluckystarfyre: Dec. 15, 2nd race, $217.50. Sheilahs Warcloud: Dec. 2, 7th race, $1,500): Madefromlucky Syndicate—$2,527.50.

MOSLER (Bay Street: Dec. 8, 8th race, $360. I Wanna Rock: Dec. 9, 6th race, $187.50. Mose Perfect: Dec. 30, 4th race, $240. Touisset: Dec. 30, 1st race, $1,620): Mosler Syndicate—$2,407.50.

NOT FOR LOVE (Clubman: Dec. 31, 5th race, $1,170): Not For Love Syndicate.

OUTFLANKER (Mama G's Wish: Dec. 31, 7th race, $480): Outflanker Syndicate.

STREET MAGICIAN (Battle of Bastogne: Dec. 22, 3rd race, $1,125. Gabriel Seven: Dec. 8, 5th race, $375; Dec. 30, 9th race, $375): R. Larry Johnson—$1,875.

SUPER NINETY NINE (Ace Nine Nine: Dec. 3, 4th race, $1,170; Dec. 22, 5th race, $195. Concrete Faze: Dec. 16, 1st race, $330): Country Life Farm—$1,695.

Registration questions?
Membership inquiries?
Member benefits questions?

Call Emily at the MHBA office
410.252.2100 ext. 129

THE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER

Post Time

- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - **April 2024** -

In This Issue

Book'em Danno honored as New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year

Precious Avary named champion 3-Year-Old Filly and Champion Turf Runner

Great Navigator earns second consecutive NJ-bred honor

Mia's Crusade named Champion Older Female

He'spuregold repeats as Champion Older Male

Sea Wizard is Stallion of the Year for first time

Adorabella the Broodmare of the Year

Smithwick's Spice captures Leinster Turf Dash

Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey

Officers

President
Rory Huston

Vice President
Janet Laszio

Treasurer
Lawrence Fleming

Secretary
Joe Coles

Board of Trustees

Joe Petrone

Nicholas Sacco

Executive Director
Michael Campbell

Book'em Danno honored as New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year

Atlantic Six Racing LLC's Book'em Danno has been named the 2023 New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year, champion sprinter, and champion 2-year-old by the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey.

Book'em Danno immediately showed his promise with a 9½-length win against New Jersey-breds in his first career start on Aug. 12 at Monmouth Park. The son of Bucchero out of the Ghostzapper mare Adorabella came back three weeks later to win the $100,000 Smoke Glacken Stakes by 2 lengths in another impressive score against open company. Book'em Danno traveled to New York for his next start, which was a resounding win in the $150,000 Futurity Stakes at Aqueduct by 6½ lengths. The Derek Ryan trainee ended his 2-year-old campaign with a three-quarter-length defeat in the Nashua Stakes at Aqueduct.

Bred in by Gregory Kilka and Bright View Farm, Book'em Danno finished 2023 with three wins and a second in four starts and earnings of $230,625.

COGLIANESE PHOTO

FOLLOW or LIKE **NJBREDS** on.

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY / 265 HIGHWAY 36, SUITE 1R, WEST LONG BRANCH, NJ 07764
TEL: 732-542-8880 / EMAIL: NJBREDS@GMAIL.COM / WWW.NJBREDS.COM

Precious Avary named Champion 3-Year-Old Filly and Champion Turf Runner

Smith Farm & Stables' homebred Precious Avary is the champion 3-year-old filly and champion turf runner after winning four times, including two stakes, during her championship campaign.

The daughter of Divining Rod won three consecutive races that concluded with a win in the Jersey Girl Handicap at Monmouth Park in July against older mares in her first start on the turf. Precious Avary won her second stakes in the $125,000 Maryland Million Ladies on the Maryland Million card on Oct. 14 at Laurel Park in gate-to-wire fashion.

Precious Avary has career earnings of $274,448 and is trained by Timothy J. Shaw.

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

Great Navigator earns second consecutive NJ-bred honor

Holly Crest Farms homebred Great Navigator is the champion 3-year-old male after hitting the board in seven of his eight starts while earning $199,407. The son of New Jersey Stallion of the Year Sea Wizard followed up on his championship 2-year-old campaign by winning the $125,000 Charles J. Hesse III Handicap against older runners by 10 lengths and finishing third in Belmont Park's historic Vosburgh-G2 behind Cody's Wish. Trained by Eddie Owens Jr., Great Navigator has amassed $282,707 in 10 starts during his first two seasons of competition.

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

Mia's Crusade named Champion Older Female

Mia's Crusade's three stakes wins in five starts earned her the honor of New Jersey-bred champion older female. The daughter of Greenpointcrusader out of the Mo Mon mare Mini Moneigh was campaigned by Joseph and Gayle Ioia and is trained by Chuck Spina.

Mia's Crusade began her championship campaign with a 1¼-length win in the $85,000 Spruce Fir Handicap at Monmouth Park in May. She returned to the winner's circle in the $100,000 Eleven North Handicap at 6 furlongs on the dirt during the New Jersey Thoroughbred Festival Aug. 27 against a full field of fillies and mares. Showing her versatility, Mia's Crusade ended her championship campaign winning the Pinot Grigio Handicap at 5 furlongs over the Meadowlands turf course.

Mia's Crusade was bred by Dianne Boyken and has career earnings of $350,781.

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

He'spuregold repeats as Champion Older Male

John Bowers Jr.'s homebred He'spuregold repeated as champion older male after another successful stakes-winning campaign at age 5. The son of Vancouver out of the Smart Strike mare Smart N Classy started his championship campaign winning over the Gulfstream Park turf Jan. 1.

He showed his affinity for the Monmouth Park turf course winning the Irish War Cry Handicap at 1 mile on the turf at Monmouth Park for the third consecutive year. Kelly J. Breen trains He'spuregold, who increaded his career earnings to $463,370.

His dam, Smart N Classy, was a graded stakes-winning New Jersey-bred homebred for Bowers, earning $466,209. As a broodmare, Smart N Classy also produced graded stakes winner Valedictorian ($761,115) and $268,080-earner Stay Smart, winner of the 2020 Smart N Classy Handicap.

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

Sea Wizard is Stallion of the Year for first time

Sea Wizard is the New Jersey Stallion of the Year after his progeny earned over $796,000 in 2023. Sea Wizard's second crop of runners includes New Jersey-bred champion 3-year-old male Great Navigator, and he sired five 2-year-old winners in 2023, including stakes-placed runners Sea Streak and Ship to Shore. Sea Wizard stands the 2024 season at Pegasus Farm in Colts Neck.

Adorabella is Broodmare of the Year

Adorabella was honored as Broodmare of the Year for the second consecutive year. Tracy Farmer bred the 8-year-old daughter of Ghostzapper out of Alydorable, by Arch. She was purchased by Gregory Kilka out of the 2020 Keeneland January Horse of All Ages Sale in foal to Fast Anna. The resulting foal was the 2022 New Jersey-bred champion 2-year-old filly Girl Trouble ($283,890), a stakes winner in 2023. Adorabella's second foal is the 2023 New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year, champion sprinter and champion 2-year-old, Book'em Danno.

Smithwick's Spice captures Leinster Turf Dash

SV PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO

New Spice Stables homebred Smithwick's Spice went to front and never looked back in winning the 21st running of the $100,000 Leinster Turf Dash Stakes going 5 furlongs on the turf at Tampa Bay Downs Feb. 24.

The 8-year-old son of Frost Giant out of Spicy McHaggis captured his second stakes and the $45,000 winner's share raised his career earnings to $508,847 in 40 starts. The winner of 10 races, his other stakes victory came in the 2022 Joey P. Handicap at Monmouth Park.

Trainer Doug Nunn has always believed in Smithwick's Spice, but had doubts about entering him against the quality of competition in the Leinster Turf Dash.

"I liked him cutting back in distance [following a good second going 1 1/16 miles earlier in the month at Gulfstream Park], but these were not just New Jersey-bred horses," Nunn said once his state of near-hysteria subsided after the race. "I was all ready to scratch him, but the owner [New Spice Stable's Robert Matthies] said let's take a shot.

"He had never run against the big boys, and I didn't want to take his heart away. But he showed he can run with the big boys," added Nunn, who broke Smithwick's Spice as a yearling.

Once Smithwick's Spice showed Daniel Centeno he wanted the lead, the jockey rolled with the veteran campaigner and was richly rewarded. "He fought the entire way. I've ridden him before and he's always run good for me," Centeno said. "When I turned for home I saw [Antonio] Gallardo [on Yes I Am Free] outside me and I thought, 'he's not going to go by me.' My horse likes to fight, and he ran big today."

"The reason I'm still here doing this is this horse," Nunn said. "When this horse retires, I'll retire. He doesn't want to retire yet, so I guess I'm going to keep on going.

North Carolina

THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

April 2024

President's message

With the heaviest of hearts, I announce the passing of NCTA member Gerard Eckhardt, who died unexpectedly Feb. 9. His excitement and enthusiasm for his horse, Hartful Hope (NC), was contagious. He couldn't be prouder to own a NC-Bred, who made it to the track and was also winning.

We spoke quite a lot about her many races, her disposition, and his thrill of owning her. Her well-being was his highest priority. His family members, who formed Jimmer Racing, shared in the ownership and joys. This racing experience meant so much to him. The sorrow of his loss is felt deeply.

Thanks go out to Caroline Cooper for volunteering to sit on the board of the NCTA. She has a lifetime of experience working with OTTBs in the show horse circuit. She started her journey into racing in 2010 when I took her to her first race at Keeneland. We were in Lexington, Ky., for the World Equestrian Games. I had no idea she'd become an owner and investor of several racehorses a few years later. She's been good for the racing industry.

Congratulations to Arlee Arkofa and Nancy Shuford for their horses' wins. Compliments to all whose horses made it to the track. Also, thank you for your continued support.

–Rebecca

NCTA 2023 Championship Award Winners

My Shea D Lady
Champion 2-year-old

2021 Dark Bay or Brown Filly by Solomini—Ladyberg, by Teuflesberg

Bred by McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds LLC
Owned by Shea D Boy's Stable

My Shea D Lady
Champion Stakes Horse

2021 Dark Bay or Brown Filly by Solomini—Ladyberg, by Teuflesberg

Bred by McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds LLC
Owned by Shea D Boy's Stable

O'Connor Sunset
Champion Male Allowance

2020 Bay Colt by Curlin—Miss Sunset, by Into Mischief

Owned by Arkofa Farm

Hartful Hope (NC)
Champion Female Allowance

2020 Dark Bay or Brown Filly by Central Banker—She's Stylish, by Posse

Bred in North Carolina by Art Bauer
Owned by Jimmer Racing

Trigger Happy
Champion Male Claiming

2019 Gray/Roan Gelding by Gun Runner—Stayclassysandiego, by Rockport Harbor

Bred by Nancy Shuford

Girl's House
Champion Female Claiming

2019 Bay Mare by Into Mischief—Mercy Ann, by Distorted Humor

Owned by Arkofa Farm

Classy Dame
Champion Broodmare

2014 by Blame—Stayclassysandiego, by Rockport Harbor

Bred and owned by Nancy Shuford

Art Bauer
NC Breeder of the Year

Racing Review

O'Conner Sunset, by Curlin out of Miss Sunset, by Into Mischief, won for owner Arlee Arkofa at Charles Town Jan. 25. The 4-year-old bay colt ran on a wet, fast track, going 7 furlongs in 1:24.34. O'Conner Sunset staked the pace early, going two-wide. He took the lead just past the half-mile and pulled away down the stretch to win by 5½ lengths, proving much the best.

O'Conner Sunset also ran second at Charles Town Jan. 26th.

Sonic Star, by Into Mischief out of Carolina Bertie, by Speightstown, won for breeder Nancy Shuford at Tokyo Racecourse in Japan Jan. 27. The 3-year-old dark bay colt ran 1600 meters, or approximately eight furlongs.

Kenny Had a Notion, by Great Notion out of Darting, by During, won for owner Arlee Arkofa at Charles Town Feb. 16. The 6-year-old bay gelding ran 7 furlongs on a fast track in 1:25.92. Kenny Had a Notion stalked the early pace off the rail, took the lead nearing the half-mile mark, and widened the lead down the stretch to win by 6¼ lengths.

Kenny Had a Notion also ran second at Charles Town Jan. 26.

Flat Out Flying, by Flat Out out of She'sa Tough Tiger, by Tiger Ridge, ran second at Laurel Park for breeders Beth Muirhead and Frank Coniglio. The 6-year-old chestnut gelding ran 1 1/16 miles on a sloppy, sealed track.

Trigger Happy, by Gun Runner out of Stayclassysandiego, by Rockport Harbor, ran second at Oaklawn Park Feb. 16 for breeder Nancy Shuford. The 5-year-old gray/roan gelding ran 1 1/16 miles on a fast track.

Antenna, by Munnings out of Harkness, by Harlan's Holiday, ran second at Aqueduct for breeder William Thompson Feb. 18. The 3-year-old dark bay filly ran 6 furlongs on a fast track.

Tiz Wicked Strong, by Wicked Strong out of Tiz Kismet, by Tiznow, ran second at Turfway Park Feb. 24 for breeder and owner Denise Walsh. The 4-year-old dark bay gelding ran 1 mile on a fast all-weather track.

Stylish Girlfriend (NC), by Friend Or Foe out of She's Stylish, by Posse, ran third Feb. 9 at Penn National for breeder Art Bauer and owner NC Born and Bred, LLC. The 3-year-old chestnut filly ran 6 furlongs on a fast track for her first time out.

Raise a Ruckus, by Fiber Sonde out of Hot Creek Risin', by Bring the Heat, ran third at Charles Town Feb. 14 for breeder and owner Clint Lowry. The 5-year-old gray or roan gelding ran 4½ furlongs on fast track.

Hitting the Board

January 25 – February 24, 2024

Date	Horse	Track	NCTA Connection	RESULTS
25-Jan	O'Conner Sunset	Charles Town	Owned by Arlee Arkofa	WINNER!
26-Jan	Kenny Had a Notion	Charles Town	Owned by Arlee Arkofa	2nd
28-Jan	Flat Out Flying	Laurel Park	Bred by Beth Muirhead & Frank Coniglio	2nd
27-Jan	Sonic Star	Tokyo Japan	Bred by Nancy Shuford	Winner!
9-Feb	Stylish Girlfriend (NC)	Penn National	Bred & owned by Art Bauer	3rd
14-Feb	Raise a Ruckus	Charles Town	Bred & owned by Clint Lowry	3rd
15-Feb	O'Conner Sunset	Charles Town	Owned by Arlee Arkofa	2nd
16-Feb	Kenny Had a Notion	Charles Town	Owned by Arlee Arkofa	WINNER!
16-Feb	Trigger Happy	Oaklawn Park	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd
17-Feb	Greatandgood	Charles Town	Owned by Arlee Arkofa	3rd
18-Feb	Antenna	Aqueduct	Bred by Bill Thompson	2nd
24-Feb	Tiz Wicked Strong	Turfway Park	Bred & owned by Denise Walsh	2nd

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

(910) 261-7595 • www.ncthoroughbred.com • ncthoroughbred@gmail.com • P.O. Box 76, Fayetteville, NC 28302

Rebecca Montaldo, *president;* ***Jimmy Teal,*** *treasurer; Directors:* ***Arlee Arkofa, Caroline Cooper, Vince Mathews, Chris Stiller***

PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

PA Thoroughbred NEWSLETTER

April 2024
pabred.com

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:** Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:** Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:** Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:** Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

VISIT PABRED.COM

- **Racing and breeding news**
- **PA-Bred entries/results**
- **Rules, regulations, forms**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Brian N. Sanfratello
Executive Secretary
execsec@pabred.com

Vicky Schowe
Asst. Exec. Sec.

701 E. Baltimore Pike, Ste. E
Kennett Square, PA 19348
Phone: 610-444-1050
www.pabred.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Gregory C. Newell, PE
Vice President: Douglas Black
Secretary: Deanna Manfredi
Treasurer: Katherine Rightmyer-O'Brien

Elizabeth B. Barr
Mike Chovanes VMD
Peter Giangiulio
Kathryn Goldenberg
Robert Graham
Justine Howell
Roger E. Legg
Elizabeth Merryman
Brian Schartz
Roberta L. Schneider MD
Richard Simoff
Vincenzo Tucciarone Sr.

PA-Breds dominate Parx Racing Horsemen's Awards

By Nikki Sherman

Parx Racing and the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association held their annual Horsemen's Awards banquet on Saturday, Feb. 17 at Celebrations in Bensalem, Pa., honoring Parx Racing's Best of 2023. PA-Breds dominated, capturing more than half of the awards, including Horse of the Year.

The event was highlighted by the crowning of Aoife's Magic as Horse of the Year, a lofty but worthy achievement for the daughter of Smarty Jones, who also won Champion Two-Year-Old Filly. Bred by Mohns Hill Farm LLC, Aoife's Magic was untested in four starts at 2, all at Parx Racing, and won those races by more than a combined 20 lengths over distances ranging from 5½ furlongs to 1 mile and 70 yards. The chestnut filly earned $261,600, averaging over $65,000 per start, which was bolstered by victories in the $150,000 Imply Stakes and $200,000 Miss Behaviour Stakes.

Aoife's Magic was purchased by Art Hetherington's A and J Racing Stable LLC at the 2022 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Eastern Fall Yearling Sale for just $16,000.

At the end of the evening, trainer David Dotolo posted on his Facebook page, "We would like to say thanks to all of [her] friends and fans. We hope the Magic continues!"

Dotolo and Hetherington stepped their prized filly up in class and she made her first trip out of state for the $100,000 Busher Stakes at Aqueduct March 2. She failed to rally and finished fourth of seven.

Champion Two-Year-Old Male Notice of Action was another graduate of the 2022 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Eastern Fall Yearling Sale, where he sold for $15,000 to Andy Hawthorne. The son of Hoppertunity is trained by Hawthorne's wife Bobbi Anne Hawthorne and was bred by Bryan Minnich. Notice of Action never finished off the board in five starts at 2, again all at Parx, garnering $209,100 for his connections. He captured his first three races, including a half-length score in the $150,000 Prince Lucky Stakes on Pennsylvania Derby Day. He finished a solid third in the $100,000 Pennsylvania Nursery in November and closed out his juvenile campaign with a second-place finish in the $200,000 Wait For It Stakes, just behind current Kentucky Derby contender Uncle Heavy, whom Notice of Action soundly defeated in the Nursery.

Three-Year-Old Male Champion Gordian Knot returned as a sophomore after an excellent juvenile campaign against only PA-Breds. He was ready to prove his mettle against open company. But first the gelded son of Social Inclusion successfully prepped with a solid 1¾-length score at Penn National June 2 in the $100,000 Danzig Stakes for PA-Bred 3-year-olds. He was ready to roll at Parx in July against both open and older company in a tough allowance that included stakes winner Tuskegee Airmen, and made easy work of it, crossing the line 1½ lengths in front.

The $75,000 Salvatore M. DeBunda Sprint against 3-year-olds Aug. 22 was the first real test for Joseph Imbesi's homebred. Trainer Guadalupe Preciado had Gordian Knot primed for the race of his life: after grabbing the lead at the top of the stretch, he held off a furious late drive by Praetorian Guard to capture his first open stakes.

Parx Horsemen's Awards continued from page 1

Gordian Knot closed out his championship season at Parx with a solid third-place finish in the $400,000 Gallant Bob Stakes-G2 on Pennsylvania Derby Day. After being caught wide on the turn, he was just a few lengths behind multiple graded stakes winner Damon's Mound and Nautical Star, who was briefly on the Kentucky Derby trail earlier in the year. Gordian Knot has $438,773 in lifetime earnings, with six wins and two seconds in nine starts.

The Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Eastern Fall Yearling Sale has been a brilliant place to find jewels for Parx Racing, as the 2020 edition saw Morning Matcha sell for $18,000 to LC Racing LLC. Since then, Cash is King LLC and Gary Barber have joined the partnership as owners and they have been soundly rewarded. Morning Matcha boasts just shy of $900,000 in career earnings, three stakes victories and multiple graded stakes-placings, including a second in the 2022 Cotillion Stakes-G1. She was Parx Racing's Champion Three-Year-Old Filly in 2022, and over the past two years was awarded Champion PA-Bred Two-Year-Old Filly and Champion PA-Bred Three-Year-Old Filly by the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association.

In 2023, Morning Matcha bookended her campaign with stakes wins, capturing the $100,000 Unique Bella at Parx April 24 and closing out the season with a win in the $125,000 New York Stallion Series Stakes at Aqueduct Dec. 3. Bred by Crane Thoroughbred Services LLC, Morning Matcha earned $246,350 in 2023 with two wins, two seconds (Obeah at Delaware Park and Plum Pretty at Parx) and two thirds (Delaware Handicap-G2 and Aqueduct's Turnback the Alarm) from seven starts. She was named Parx Racing's Champion Older Female.

The final PA-Bred 2023 Parx award winner was Tom Coulter's homebred Nimitz Class, named Champion Older Male. The son of Munnings came out running at the beginning of 2023, scoring three straight stakes victories at Laurel Park: the $100,000 John B. Campbell by 4½ lengths, $100,000 Harrison E. Johnson Memorial by 6¼ lengths and the $100,000 Native Dancer by 2¾ lengths.

Nimitz Class returned to race in Pennsylvania May 23 at Parx in a $75,000 open allowance and devoured his competition by 5¼ lengths. After two second-place finishes in stakes company at Monmouth Park and Laurel, the colt's last three starts were back at Parx. The Bruce Kravets trainee finished second in the $100,000 Storm Cat Stakes Aug. 21 on the Pennsylvania's Day at the Races card. He was primed for the race of his life in his next start, the $400,000 Parx Dirt Mile, held on Pennsylvania Derby Day. Amongst the competition was multiple Grade 1 winner Gunite, whom Nimitz Class soundly trounced while bounding home 1¾ lengths in front. He closed out his campaign with a third-place finish in the $75,000 M.P. Ballezzi Appreciation Mile. On the board in all nine starts in 2023, winning five, he added $482,600 to his bankroll, which grew to $717,080 after three seasons.

That Parx Dirt Mile victory was brilliant enough to catch the attention of serious potential buyers. Nimitz Class was purchased privately by Qatar Racing, Black Type Thoroughbreds, Swinbank Stables, Steve Adkisson and Campeche Stables and has since moved to the barn of trainer George Weaver. He opened his 2024 season with a start in the $3 million Pegasus World Cup Invitational Stakes-G1, so his new connections clearly have high expectations.

Combine that excitement for Nimitz Class with the potential for sophomores Aoife's Magic, Notice of Action and Uncle Heavy, and 2024 holds the promise of being an electrifying year for Pennsylvania-Breds.

A few words from the Executive Secretary

Good luck to the breeders and connections of Uncle Heavy, Carmelina and Maximus Meridius as trainer Butch Reid targets the Wood Memorial card April 6 at Aqueduct. Uncle Heavy is pointed to the Grade 2 Wood Memorial, Carmelina the Grade 3 Gazelle and Maximus Meridius, the Bay Shore. It should be a fantastic day for Pennsylvania breeding and racing!

Want to breed to a PA-Sire like the breeder of Uncle Heavy? Go to pabred.com and view the 2024 Stallion Directory. While you're there, check out the new stallions standing in 2024. Breed to a PA stallion and receive 40% in Breeder Awards, up to 40% in Owner Bonuses, eligibility for the PA-Sired, PA-Bred Series, and hundreds of Restricted Races. Wow!

The PA-Sired PA-Bred series is being expanded for foals of 2022 to include 3yos. The nomination fee is now $500 until April 30. Replacing the trainer bonus this year will be a $50,000 breeder bonus for horses that finish first, second and third in total points for the series: $25,000 for first, $15,000 for second and $10,000 for third.

By now you should be familiar with the online registration system on our website. If you are still using paper registrations, please make sure you forward a signed copy of the Code of Ethics, which is attached to the registration form.

All broodmare domicile forms should have already been entered online for the 2024 foaling season, except for public sales and breed backs. Please submit your form when your mare enters the state. These domicile reports are MANDATORY and if not completed, your foal could be denied PA-Bred registration. As usual, please contact our office with any questions you may have.

Pennsylvania is the only place to Breed & Race! Go Pa!!

BE SURE TO

NOMINATE YOUR PA-SIRED, PA-BRED 2YOS

TO THE PA STALLION SERIES FOR $500 BY

APRIL 30TH!

NOMINATION FEES WILL INCREASE ON MAY 1ST

RACE DATES —

SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2024 AT PARX

$100,000 WHISTLE PIG STAKES
2YO PA-Sired PA-Breds,
6 furlongs

$100,000 MISS BLUE TYE DYE STAKES
2YO fillies, PA-Sired PA-Breds,
6 furlongs

DECEMBER 30TH, 2024 AT PARX

$100,000 WAIT FOR IT STAKES
2YO PA-Sired PA-Breds,
7 furlongs

$100,000 MISS BEHAVIOUR STAKES
2YO fillies, PA-Sired PA-Breds,
7 furlongs

PA DAY AT THE RACES AT PARX 2025

$100,000 PRINCE LUCKY STAKES
3YO, PA-Sired PA-Breds,
7 furlongs

$100,000 IMPLY STAKES
3YO fillies, PA-Sired PA-Breds,
7 furlongs

PENNSYLVANIA
HORSE BREEDERS
ASSOCIATION

Please contact our office at

610.444.1050

with any program questions

2 & 3 YEAR-OLD
$950,000
in purses & awards
PA-SIRED PA-BRED STALLION SERIES

- The Series is being expanded in 2024-2025 and will be run in three legs, six stakes, 2yos at 6f for **$100,000**, 2yos at 7f for **$100,000** and 3yos at 7f for **$100,000**.
- The first two legs will consist of a 2yo race and a 2YO filly race.
- The third leg in 2025 will be for 3yos and 3yo fillies.

$50,000
BREEDER BONUS
which will be paid at end of the 3YO races in 2025

UNCLE HEAVY
WINNER OF THE
$250,000 G3 WITHERS S.
AND THE $200,000
WAIT FOR IT S.

PENNSYLVANIA
HORSE BREEDERS
ASSOCIATION

Please contact our office at
610.444.1050
with any program questions

Visit **pabred.com** for more information | #PABred on social media

SCTOBA

South Carolina

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER APRIL 2024

Racing Across the Nation

Two South Carolina training center graduates won stakes between Jan. 27 and Feb. 17.

Roanan Goddess gained her first stakes victory when winning the Xtra Heat at Laurel Park Jan. 27. This 3-year-old filly stalked the leaders early on. While in the stretch, she showed good courage after being involved in some bumping while in tight quarters. Approaching the sixteenth-pole, Roanan Goddess put her head in front, putting some daylight between the field and herself. She crossed the finish line 2¼ lengths in front.

Roanan Goddess went through the breaking process at Franklin "Goree" Smith's Elloree Training Center and is trained by Goree's brother, Hamilton Smith.

Post Time, who was prepared for his racing career in Aiken under the care of Cary Frommer, won the Jennings Jan. 28 and the General George Stakes-G3 Feb. 17, both at Laurel Park. Post Time trailed the field for the opening 5 furlongs of the Jennings, then launched his bid. He moved up between horses at the top of the stretch, quickly took control and powered his way home for a 6½-length victory. This was his second stakes win in a row, having taken the City of Laurel back in November.

He made it three in a row next when capturing the General George. Post Time was in no rush, having one beat after the opening half mile. When making his move, he encountered traffic and had to angle out five-wide in the stretch. He didn't get to the front until reaching the sixteenth pole, then quickly opened up to win by 3 lengths.

Post Time has won seven of his eight career starts, including four stakes. He was named a finalist for Maryland-bred 3-year old champion of 2023.

In his latest two stakes victories, Post Time has recorded Equibase Speed Figures of 116.

Merry Maker (Ire) an Eclipse Award winner

On Jan. 25, Merry Maker was named the 2023 Eclipse Award-winning Champion Steeplechaser. Merry Maker is owned by SCTOBA member Pierre Manigault who lives in Charleston, and is trained by SCTOBA member Arch Kingsley, who has his training operation in Camden.

A foal of 2017, Merry Maker (by German stallion Malinas out of Irish mare Sparkling Gem, by Revoque) ran five times in 2023, earning $180,000. He won an allowance in May at Great Meadow in Virginia before finishing third in the Jonathan Kiser Novice Stakes and fourth in the Jonathan Sheppard Handicap-G1 at Saratoga in August. In September at Aqueduct, Merry Maker won the Grade 1 Lonesome Glory Handicap. In his final 2023 start, he finished second in the Grand National Hurdle Stakes-G1 at Far Hills in October. His regular exercise rider is Arch's daughter, Taylor Kingsley.

Pierre Manigault is the driving force behind the Steeplechase of Charleston held in Hollywood, S.C., every November.

First Time Out Winners

We should never get too high or too low with the result of a horse's debut race but it is impossible not to get excited when the horse wins!!

Bee Dancer, a graduate of Goree Smith's program at the Elloree Training Center, stalked the leaders early before taking the lead at the top of the stretch and winning by a length at Fair Grounds Jan. 20.

At Parx Racing Feb. 6, All American Rod came from the back of the pack and proved much the best, winning by 3¼ lengths at 35-1 odds! He was developed for his racing career at Randy and Kala Rentz's training center in Erhardt.

Cary Frommer's former student, Merasol Sugar, broke on top and never looked back at Oaklawn Park to win by 3 lengths Feb. 11.

The crew at the Travis Durr Training Center watched Porquerolles win by a hard fought nose at Gulfstream Park Feb. 15, and two days later Drip led wire-to wire at Fair Grounds, crossing the finish line 2¼ lengths in front.

At Tampa Bay Downs Feb. 17, Incinerator, developed by Brad Stauffer and Ron Stevens' Legacy Stable in Aiken, dueled to the wire with another and finished a length in front.

The light at the end of the tunnel is bright for all six of these!!

Book'em Danno finishes second in Saudi Derby-G3

Book'em Danno missed the win in a heartbreaker in the $1.5 million Saudi Derby-G3 Feb. 24. The 3-year-old gelding was developed for his racing career by Randy and Kala Rentz. He led in the stretch and ran courageously to the wire being caught just a jump before the finish line by the heavy favorite, Japan's unbeaten Forever Young. In six career starts, Book'em Danno has four wins, including three stakes, and two seconds, and $560,625 in earnings.

South Carolina-trained winners

Horse	*Training Center*	*Date*	*Track*	*Type of Race*
Bee Dancer	Elloree Trn Ctr	01/20/24	Fair Grounds	Maiden Special Weight
Bandwagon	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	01/21/24	Santa Anita	Maiden Special Weight
Niles Channel	Elloree Tng Ctr	01/21/24	Fair Grounds	Starter Allowance
Mr. Sandman	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	01/24/24	Parx Racing	Starter Allowance
Abidale	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	01/24/24	Parx Racing	Starter Allowance
Phabulous Phoebe	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	01/24/24	Penn National	Allowance
ROANAN GODDESS	Elloree Tng Ctr	01/27/24	Laurel Park	Xtra Heat S
POST TIME	Aiken - Cary Frommer	01/28/24	Laurel Park	Jennings S
Lonesome Boy	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	01/28/24	Aqueduct	Starter Allowance
Bump N Run	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	01/30/24	Parx Racing	Allowance
Henley's Joy	Aiken - Cary Frommer	01/31/24	Gulfstream Park	Allowance
New Hire	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	01/31/24	Penn National	Allowance
Miss Stones	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	02/02/24	Charles Town	Allowance
Leeloo	Aiken - Cary Frommer	02/04/24	Aqueduct	Allowance
Nasty Habit	Kirkwood Equine Adv.	02/05/24	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
All American Rod	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	02/06/24	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
Uncle Dar	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	02/08/24	Penn National	Allowance
Long Legs	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	02/10/24	Charles Town	Maiden Special Weight
Merasol Sugar	Aiken - Cary Frommer	02/11/24	Oaklawn Park	Maiden Special Weight
Rominski	Mason Springs	02/11/24	Laurel Park	Allowance
Kingdom Queen	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	02/12/24	Mahoning Valley	Allowance
Niles Channel	Elloree Tng Ctr	02/13/24	Fair Grounds	Starter Allowance
La Macchina Rossa	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	02/14/24	Charles Town	Maiden Special Weight
One More Chapter	Elloree Tng Ctr	02/14/24	Mahoning Valley	Allowance
I Know Map	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	02/14/24	Penn National	Allowance
Porquerolles	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	02/15/24	Gulfstream Park	Maiden Special Weight
Koufax	Elloree Tng Ctr	02/15/24	Fair Grounds	Starter Allowance
General Banker	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	02/17/24	Aqueduct	Allowance
Drip	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	02/17/24	Fair Grounds	Maiden Special Weight
Union Fleet	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	02/17/24	Laurel Park	Starter Allowance
Incinerator	Aiken - Legacy Stable	02/17/24	Tampa Bay	Maiden Special Weight
POST TIME	Aiken - Cary Frommer	02/17/24	Laurel Park	General George S-G3
Firsttimeinforever	Aiken - Cary Frommer	02/18/24	Santa Anita	Starter Allowance
Doctor Abbie	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	02/18/24	Laurel Park	Allowance

VIRGINIA

SECRETARIAT "RACING INTO HISTORY' MONUMENT DEDICATION SET FOR MARCH 30 IN ASHLAND, VIRGINIA

March 30 will be a monumental day for Ashland, Virginia. The town has proclaimed it "Secretariat Day" to celebrate the birthday of the legendary Virginia-bred Triple Crown champion and to hold the long-awaited dedication ceremony for the stunning bronze "Secretariat Racing Into History" statue by sculptor Jocelyn Russell.

The dedication program and ribbon-cutting will take place at 2:00 p.m. at the Reynolds Family Plaza at Randolph-Macon College in downtown Ashland. This is the first and only monument of Secretariat in Virginia, his birth state. He was born on March 30, 1970 at Meadow Stable, which was founded by Christopher Chenery, who grew up in Ashland. At 21 feet long and 11.5 feet tall, the monument depicts a larger-than-life Secretariat at a full run, ridden by jockey Ron Turcotte. The saddlecloth shows the number two for Secretariat's post position in the 1973 Belmont, his most memorable race. The 3,800-pound artwork garnered national publicity last summer during its 5,000-mile tour celebrating the 50th anniversary of Secretariat's Triple Crown.

The Secretariat For Virginia Committee with the non-profit Ashland Museum raised the funds for the project. "Secretariat Racing Into History represents my family history coming full circle, in more ways than one," said Kate Chenery Tweedy, chair of SECVA. "Like my grandfather Chris Chenery and my mother Penny overcoming their challenges with Meadow Stable, our team displayed an unwavering determination to get the job done. This glorious monument will stand as an emblem of excellence and inspiration that honors a matchless legacy."

As a tribute to Secretariat's Virginia roots and his still-unbroken track records in the 1973 Triple Crown, the majestic sculpture will be standing on a base containing portions of sand from the original training track at Meadow Stable and from the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont tracks. The Virginia Equine Alliance (VEA), which promotes the horse breeding and horse racing industries in the Commonwealth, will be livestreaming the statue dedication via virginiahorseracing.com.

Sculptor Jocelyn Russell's "Secretariat Racing Into History monument will be dedicated in Ashland on March 30.

For the complete schedule of festival events that day and parking information, see www.SecretariatforVirginia.com

PLANS FOR 9-WEEK COLONIAL DOWNS SUMMER THOROUGHBRED MEET CONTINUE

The highly anticipated Colonial Downs summer thoroughbred meet – the second under Churchill Downs' ownership –- will take place from July 11- September 7 on a Thursday thru Saturday schedule with a post time of 1:30 PM except on Fridays when a twilight card will get underway at 4:30 PM. Average daily purses will be in the $700,000 range.

The barn area will open on June 24 and training will begin on June 27. The stable area will remain open for one week after the live race season has been completed. Training this year will be available seven days a week. As of press time, both the stakes schedule and condition book were close to being finalized. Horsemen can access those documents along with a stall application at colonialdowns.com/horsemen.

The second annual "Festival of Racing" will again highlight the slakes lineup on Saturday August 10 and feature three major graded stakes — the G1 Arlington Million, G2 Beverly D and G2 Secretariat. Other key Saturday events are the Commonwealth Champions Day card on August 31 and the Virginia Derby Day program on closing day. A series of Virginia-restricted races will be held at the former while a stakes-laden card of open events will be contested on the latter, including the G3 Derby and the Virginia Oaks.

Moving ahead, the number of live race days is expected to increase substantially in 2025 since the state's largest Rosie's Gaming Emporium is scheduled to open in Dumfries this September. The resort facility, named "The Rose", will feature 1,650 Historical Horse Racing (HHR) machines initially — which will provide additional funding for the industry to present 44 or 45 race thoroughbred race days at Colonial in 2025. Currently, the largest two Rosie's sites in Richmond and Hampton feature 700 machines each.

TWO VIRGINIA POINT-TO-POINT MEETS TO HOST NSA SANCTIONED JUMP RACES

Virginia's horse racing season is in full swing and several Point-to-Point (PTP) meets are already in the books. The Rappahannock Hunt, Warrenton Hunt and Piedmont Fox Hounds PTPs were held on various Saturdays in March and two of the major ones are next up on the schedule.

The Blue Ridge Hunt PTP is slated for March 30 at the Woodley Farm in Berryville and will feature a pair of NSA sanctioned steeplechase events for the first time ever. The Old Dominion Hounds Point-to-Point follows on April 6 at the Ben Venue Farm in Ben Venue, where a trio of NSA sanctioned jump races are scheduled. This will be the 48th running of the Old Dominion event which celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Hunt group itself. These two PTPs will be livestreamed at nationalsteeplechase.com. A pair of Sunday gatherings close out the early season festivities — the Loudoun Hunt PTP is April 21 at Morven Park in Leesburg and the Middleburg Hunt PTP is April 28 at Glenwood Park.

A trio of NSA spring jump meets will be contested on three consecutive Saturdays starting with the Middleburg Spring Races at Glenwood Park April 20, followed by the Foxfield Spring Races in Charlottesville April 27 and the Virginia Gold Cup at Great Meadow –- that features pari-mutuel wagering --- on Kentucky Derby Day, May 4. The Gold Cup card, which features $430,000 in purses, will have a Grade 1 race as part of its impressive program. The $150,000 Commonwealth Cup will be contested as a handicap hurdle stake for four-year-olds and up at 2 1/8 miles over a dozen national fences.

Virginia's Point-to-Point season kicked off March 2 with the Rappahannock Hounds meet in Boston, VA. (Douglas Lees photo)

"VIRGINIA'S ECONOMY WINS WITH HORSES" ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN TO AIR ON VARIOUS OUTLETS THROUGHOUT 2024

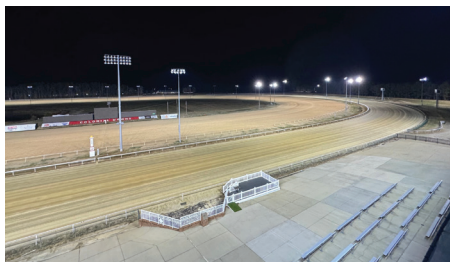
The Virginia Equine Alliance (VEA) has forged a strategic partnership with Virginia Broadcast Solutions and the Virginia Association of Broadcasters to develop a comprehensive advertising plan to highlight the profound economic and social impacts of the Virginia horse racing and breeding industry and its integral role in contributing to the Commonwealth's prosperity.

The "Virginia's Economy Wins With Horses" campaign has a statewide focus on the Northern Virginia, Richmond, Tidewater, Roanoke/Lynchburg and Charlottesville markets. Elements include broadcast radio, broadcast TV, streaming TV, targeted display banner ads, social media (Facebook, Instagram) and magazine ads. The combined campaign is estimated to deliver 71,547,900 impressions over a 12-month period. For comparison, the population of Virginia is 8,709,873.

The VEA has created custom content using actual footage shot across the state focusing on four different categories — economy, tourism, workers and agriculture. A video shoot was also set up with the First Lady of Virginia, Suzanne Youngkin. Suzanne is a passionate equestrian and spoke about her love for horses and their contributions to many facets of the people of Virginia.

Virginia's economy is winning with the Virginia Thoroughbred Association's (VTA) successful Certified Residency program which turns eight years old this year. Since 2017, a total of 5,031 horses have participated. This program allows out-of-state horses to spend at least six consecutive months on a Virginia registered farm prior to turning three years old — though horses in this program spend an average of eight months in the state. In 2017, 566 horses participated in what was then a new venture. In 2021, there were 940 horses involved.

Owners and breeders of Virginia-Certified horses are eligible to receive bonuses from the VTA based on how their horse performs. If Virginia-Certified horses win any open race in the Mid-Atlantic region, they will earn up to a 25% bonus. A 10% bonus is paid from in-state restricted races. In order to help boost participation in the lucrative 9-week summer meet at Colonial Downs, certified awards can no longer be earned on out-of-state races while the New Kent track is running, but a full slate of Certified races are contested there throughout the meet. In its first six years, the program had paid out $14.6 million in bonuses. A total of $4 million is budgeted annually.



The last couple races on Friday "Happy Hour" cards this summer at Colonial Downs will be held under the lights.

Colonial Downs is scheduled to conduct a controlled burn of their Secretariat Turf Course on March 18. Here is a scene from the 2023 burn.

Virginia Thoroughbred Association

President: Amy Moore Vice-President: Wayne VanSant Treasurer: Turner Kobayashi Past President: Susan Cooney
Directors: Christina Applegate, Donna Dennehy, Janet de Teran, Alan Hutchinson, Larry Johnson, Chris Kuhn, Diane Manning, Diana McClure, Sara Miller, Patricia Ramey, Brooke Royster, Pat Shepherd, Laura Smith, Wayne Chatfield Taylor

Visit www.vabred.org–the best source for Virginia breeding and racing news
For more information on the Virginia Breeders Fund or Virginia Stakes Program, please contact the VTA.
250 West Main Street, Suite 100, Charlottesville, VA 22902 | (434) 977-3716

Virginia Breeders Fund

West Virginia
THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Newsletter April 2024

Action heating up on two fronts

By Jeff Gilleas

Breeding season is just a few months in duration, but add in the intensity of foaling and many horsemen are obliged to split their time between the farm and racetrack. Working against deadlines controlled by mother nature makes this a game of unanticipated hurdles, while in the shedrow, the developmental stage for inexperienced runners, and veterans new-made from winter vacations necessitate that duel commitment.

The sixth race on Thursday, Jan. 4, evoked a media response akin to a someone of influence returning home to claim their family inheritance.

Late Nite Mistress, a dark bay/brown filly by Into Mischief out of superstar West Virginia-bred Late Night Pow Wow, began her career in Kentucky under the tutelage of trainer Wesley Ward. After a series of modest efforts, owner/breeder Breeze Easy LLC opted to transfer the majestically-bred filly to the barn of Javier Contreras, who campaigned Late Night Pow Wow.

Performing as expected in her local debut, Late Nite Mistress was merely kept alert to the wire, as she coasted home well clear of her maiden special weight field.

Horsemen are eternally hopeful for an edge to propel one to the winner's circle, however sometimes positive results can be attained by simply changing venues.

West Virginia veteran racemare Azzurra has been a stalwart competitor, but always one rung from the top of the ladder when facing stakes caliber company. The daughter of Capo Bastone out of Wild in Manila hadn't won a race since March 25, 2022, but this year could be a zodiac phenomenon for the Timothy Freitag-owned 8-year-old. Since transitioning to the barn of trainer Donnie Barber, three successive allowance wins have ensued.

Congratulations to breeder Antonio Scotto Di Carlo, as the bay mare continues to add to her evolving bankroll of $361,269.

Though trainer Donnie Barber appears frail, and now aided by a walker to participate in the winner's circle, his team at Barn 15 has been graced with good fortune, particularly by the bullish run of Derby Day Dreams. The 7-year-old gelded son of Fiber Sonde out of Land of Dreams powered down the stretch in Jan. 18th's seventh race to register his eighth lifetime victory in 31 career starts.

Completing the 4½ furlongs in a sparkling 50.53 seconds for owner-breeder Donna Swaim, Derby Day Dreams may once again have his eye on the Dash for Cash Breeders Classic in October, which he has lined up for the past three years.

The final book of the New Testament is Revelation, which just happens to contain my favorite passage, "I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True."

The final race on Thursday, Feb. 1 belonged to Judgement Day. Owned by Grams Racing Stable, trained by Tim Grams and bred by Tim and Judy Grams, the muscular bay by Divining Rod out of Bench Ruling made an emphatic statement in his 6½-furlong debut.

Rated while setting a quick pace, Judgement Day was hand urged away from rivals on the far turn and finished on

his own initiative. His 8½-length margin of victory validated the high percentage barn's ability to superbly prepare a first-time starter.

Sometimes fancy pedigrees, manicured shedrows and Brooks Brothers suits have no bearing on whether a horse can flat out run. On Feb. 2, Marshall Peanut, a son of Gandhi out of Crooked Again, by Taste of Paradise, proved you don't need pricey Levi's to possess good genes. The undefeated 3-year-old tested older males and, after overcoming a rough beginning, swung wide to professionally motor down his seasoned adversaries.

Owned, trained and bred by Mike Atkins, Marshall Peanut runs with sheer determination. Mike said he has received a few lucrative offers to buy the good-looking chestnut, but prefers to have some fun of his own right now.

Loyalty is demonstrated by consistent behavior and trust in a system that is valued beyond others.

Through their acts and deeds trainer Jeff Runco and late longtime breeder John McKee faithfully served West Virginia and been wholly committed to its racing and breeding product. One of their greatest equine accomplishments manifested itself in the presence of Muad'dib. Closing in on the $1 million plateau in earnings, the 7-year-old son of Fiber Sonde out of Holy Pow Wow has made 21 starts in his illustrious career all, at Charles Town Races.

After a brief freshening, he began his quest toward the millionaires club on Wednesday night, Feb. 7, and by the far turn had chalk players reaching for their antacid medicine. The 10-cent on the dollar favorite was languishing in mid-pack until a sudden late surge of energy encouraged him to a popular half-length score. Fourth in last year's Charles Town Classic-G2, and second in the Sam Huff Breeders Classic, Muad'dib continues the legacy of his goal-oriented team.

My father used to say, "passion don't pay the bills." I prefer to quantify my passion for horse racing as priceless.

The long anticipated debut of Overnight Pow Wow was delayed by several late scratches off the program, but Wednesday, Feb. 14 was a day those in attendance will long remember. The full sister to Muad'dib and Late Night Pow Wow wrangled away from her groom in the paddock, broke tardily from her rail post, checked awaiting racing room at the quarter pole, then once clear eagerly responded to a flick of her rider's wrist to prevail by a widening 4-length margin. The regally-bred lass is owned by Beau Ridge Farm, trained by Cyndy McKee and bred by John McKee.

At the entry counter the following morning two agents battled over the significance of her performance. One chose to downplay the effort, calling the time of the race pedestrian, while the other could not properly articulate his unbridled excitement.

Only time will decide this argument.

West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association

P.O. Box 626, Charles Town, WV 25414
Phone: (304) 728-6868
Fax: (304) 724-7870
www.wvtba.com
Office location:
202 East Liberty St.,Charles Town, WV 25414.
Hours: 9-1 pm, Tuesday through Saturday

Cynthia McKee, ***President***
Mary Sell, ***Vice-President***
Nicole Brown, ***Treasurer***
Judy Grams, ***Secretary***

Directors: Tim Collins, Javier Contreras, Leslie Cromer, Karen Freer, John Funkhouser, Elizabeth Meehan, David Walters

Benefits of Owning a WV-Bred and/or -Sired racehorse
Some of the best incentives in the nation!

- A minimum of three accredited races are written every day at Charles Town exclusively for registered WV-bred and/or -sired horses.
- West Virginia has the only program in the country that permits horses to win state-bred races that do not count against the horse's lifetime open conditions.
- The WV Thoroughbred Development Fund distributes over $4.5 million to breeders, owners, and stallion owners of accredited WV-bred and/or -sired horses based the horse's annual earnings at Charles Town and Mountaineer Park racetracks.
- The West Virginia Breeders Classics pays out almost $1 million in purses for WV-bred and/or -sired horses. It is held annually on the second Saturday in October.
- $800,000 in purses are allocated for up to 16 WV accredited stakes races during the year.
- Supplemental Purse Awards of up to 10% of the winner's share of the purse to the owner, breeder, and/or sire owner of the accredited WV-bred and/or -sired winner.
- West Virginia offers year-round racing with approximately 300 race days per year.

Chasing
Brought to you by the Temple Gwathmey Steeplechase Foundation

Elkridge-Harford Celebrates 100 Years

From an April 7, 2023 article written by Maryanna Skowronski

Photos courtesy of the author

On April 8th the Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club will celebrate 100 hundred years of formal steeplechase racing under its auspices with the 2023 running of the Elkridge-Harford Point-to-Point.

It is a meet with a lengthy and sometimes complicated history and, as with many storied race meetings, one hundred years do not always mean one hundred renewals as war, economic downturns, occasional severe weather, and the recent pandemic have caused some dark years. None the less the sport has persevered for a century and that is an anniversary to recognize.

During the nineteen teens and very early '20s, The Aegis, Harford County, Maryland's newspaper of record, ran advertisements for local horse shows held at Verdant Valley. Verdant Valley was home to the foxhunting Bonsal, and later Drennan families and was the location of the Harford Hunt's first kennels. The newspaper ads cited "steeplechase classes" but these were far from organized race meetings. The earliest concrete, or should we say silver, evidence of a Harford Hunt race comes in the form of a 1923 trophy in the collection of a local horseman and inscribed "Harford Hunt Steeplechase Cup." It was presented by the then Harford Hunt Master of Foxhounds, Mrs. William Goadby Loew, to be awarded annually unless won three times by the same owner at which time it would be retired. F. Hambleton Cockey's Perfect Day, won the inaugural presentation while J. Myers Pearce was the owner of the 1924 winning horse, Smoky. Cockey's horse took the wins again in 1925 and 1926, retiring the cup which had remained within the family until recently.

1959- B. H. Griswold IV on Country Boy leads Golden Fly with D. M. "Mikey" Smithwick in the irons. (photo, Joe Di Paola/The Sun). The studio and "big house" of Atlanta Hall can be seen in the background.

1925 saw internationally known horseman Stephen "Laddie" Sanford honor his 1923 English Grand National winner with the inaugural Sergeant Murphy Point-to-Point. Sanford and his wife, the former stage and screen actress Mary Duncan Sanford, were members of the Harford Hunt and maintained a hunting box on the club grounds. Although Sergeant Murphy never ran in Maryland, the cup race was run by the Harford Hunt through 1934 (no race, 1931). Its final two years were as part of the formally organized Harford Hunt Races and Livestock Fair. The winning rider that final year was local jockey Walter "Wassie" Ball who rode Sanford Stud Farm's Snap Back to victory. Ball, the father of Maryland Horse magazine photographer the late Skip Ball, eventually went on to work at Atlanta Hall Farm for the Edward S. Vosses and taught many local youngsters how to ride. The trophy, which was sent back to its home country by the Sanford family is now presented periodically by The Manor Conservancy as its land conservation award. Recognizing the historic significance of the cup the Conservancy chose not re-engrave it. Rather, a base was crafted on which recipients are listed.

In 1928, Harford Hunt racing had a new venue, Loafer's Lodge. For three years transplanted New Yorker and accomplished horseman, Van Duzer Burton, hosted the Harford races at his Monkton home, a proverbial stone's throw from the grounds of the hunt club. Formerly known Foxhall Farm during its tenure as the home of all round American sportsman Foxhall P. Keene, Burton had given the farm its Colonial name.

The Harford Hunt Races and Livestock Fair were inaugurated in 1932. Future Master of Foxhounds, Harvey S. Ladew with the help of his friend William du Pont personally designed an expansive course on the grounds of Ladew's Pleasant Valley farm (now Ladew Gardens). In an interview the late Robert M. Six, Ladew's former hunt groom, stated that the Pleasant Valley course was the first to have fences that leaned rather than straight verticals. Mr. Six went on to say that the course was encircled by a six-furlong track with brush jumps in the interior. The timber used for the course was felled on the farm and then cut by hand. The fences consisted of brush,

timber, hurdles, and sheep hurdles. A handful of surviving period photographs show the elaborate course. The land on which the course was constructed was boggy and had to be drained and tiled. The woods have grown back and sections of the old drain tiles occasionally surface with the change in weather and ground water. The racing barn which stood in the woods is now a memory. Today a portion of the old course serves as playing fields for the Maryland Polo Club.

Among the races run at Ladew's were the Harford Pink Coat Cup, Breezewood Cup, Little Gunpowder Cup, Lindenhope Cup, Alligator Cup, and the Harford Hunt Hurdle as well as the previously mentioned Sergeant Murphy. The famous Foxhall Farm Challenge Cup was also a part of those race meets. The seemingly always in attendance Paul Brown, captured many exciting Harford race moments in his steeplechase books while Baltimore, New York and Philadelphia newspapers carried stories and photos of social functions leading up to the races as well as of the races themselves.

No races were held in 1935 and 1936. By 1937 the then Harford Hunt Races and Livestock Fair had become, with the 1934 merger of the Elkridge and Harford Hunts, the Elkridge-Harford Hunt Races and Livestock Fair, run at Pleasant Valley until 1938. Ladew retired as MFH in 1939 and racing on his course ended.

On March 30th, 1940, Elkridge-Harford Master of Foxhounds Edward S. Voss and his wife Elsa, hosted a point-to-point on their Atlanta Hall Farm, the precursor of today's

The earliest known photo at a point-to-point meet in Elkridge-Harford country was taken on the front lawn of the clubhouse. The image is from the Baltimore Sun's "brown section." The 1925 race was held in late November and reported on in early December. To the left with his back to the camera, is Alexander Brown. To the right in the bowler hat reining in his horse is Lurman Stewart. Redmond Stewart was the winner of the race. A hunt took place after the race.

Fred Colwill (foreground) and Hugh O'Donovan (on the grey, Just a Racket) at the second fence in the 1937 race.

Elkridge-Harford Point-to-Point. According to historian J. Rieman McIntosh, the 4 and one- half mile course over natural fences crossed the farms of the Vosses, Mrs. L. H. Drennan, Miss Edna Parlett, Mr. S. Lurman Stewart, and Mr. Charles Patterson. Edward Voss, a native New Yorker whose family had Baltimore roots, had himself competed in steeplechase races and in fact rode in point-to-points well into his sixties. The fact is proven in a photo of Voss inscribed in his own hand which reads "66 years old, Thimble Rigger, 1949 Point-to-Point." The race meet, sponsored by the Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club and hosted by the Voss family, has been held at Atlanta Hall since that time.

By the time the 1950s and '60s rolled around names such as Smithwick (Mikey and Paddy), Griswold (Ben and Jay), Hugh Wiley, Laddie Murray, Paddy Neilson, Secor, J. W.Y. Martin, Fenwick, and Janney among others could be found regularly on the cards for the meet. In the March, 1950 issue of The Maryland Horse writer, Ann Woods describes a thrilling, down to the wire, won by a nose finish to the S. Lurman Stewart Challenge Cup, an annual race that was hotly contested well into the 1960s.

1963's race meet was an anomaly. According to writer Edward Kilner, the normal ten horse fields and two race cards usually expected had been reduced to a total of four entrants. It was decided to combine them into one, two-division race. 17-year-old Vivian Rall riding her own Tuff-Enuff and Karen Campbell on Jane Flaccus's Bold Visitor went to the post with Peter Winants on his own horse, Fanny, and Frank Bonsal, Jr. on Sagahash. According to Kilner, it was a close, hard fought race with the ladies besting the men. Campell was first with Rall second while Winants finished third, Bonsal having come off his mount.

In 1966, United States Ambassador, Kingdon Gould, a true gentleman jockey, won the S. Lurman Stewart Memorial. In 1968 Olympic and Pan American Games show jumper rider, Kathy Kusner on Mrs. T.A. Randolph's Walrus won the Ladies Race despite crashing through a rail at the 18th fence. The moment was captured by photographer Peter Winants and can be seen in the Look Back column of the April 29, 1988 issue of The Chronicle of the Horse. Kusner went on to ride Whackerjack in the 1971 Ladies Race. Later that year she became the first woman to ride in the Maryland Hunt Cup. 1971 also saw the inauguration of the Edward S. Voss Memorial which is now the feature of each year's race meeting.

By the 1970s and 1980s the names Fisher, Weymouth, Merryman, Brewster, Cocks, Jackson, McKnight, Cochran, Phipps, Valentine, Strawbridge, Naylor, Bird, Small, Mahoney, Clagett, Hannum, Yovanovich, and others were seen in owner, trainer, or rider columns. Old races retired to make way for new races which in turn gave way to others. The S. Lurman Stewart, B. Frank Christmas, Babe Saportas, Frederic Cross Memorial Old Fashioned, and others live on only in memory and in old race programs.

The Harford/Elkridge-Harford races have survived the Great Depression, WWII, the Korean and Viet Nam eras, gas rationing in the '70s, recession, wind, snow, rain, heat, and lockdown. Maryland Hunt Cup and Aintree Grand National horses and riders have traversed the courses as have Hall of Fame jockeys and trainers. Thousands of spectators and hundreds of race subscribers, committee members, officials and volunteers have supported the meet over the decades. Citing them all individually would be impossible. Suffice to say they are all appreciated.

From the 1990s through the present- second, third, and today some probable fourth generations of horsemen and horsewomen have taken part or are taking part in the Elkridge-Harford races. The future looks strong.

100 years. Surely, somewhere, in unknown Elysian hunt fields the men and women who started it all must be smiling.

— Classifieds —

BOARDING/FOALING/LAYUPS

DAYDREAM FARM: Hamburg, PA. Rehabs, layups and sales prep. Personalized care. Odyssey Proformance. Trainer on farm. Broodmares and foaling. Reasonable rates, references available. www.daydreamfarmpa.com. Call (610) 780-0972.

YOUR FOALS NEED STRONG BONE! Board your Thoroughbred broodmare at historic farm rich in limestone near Frederick, MD. Competitive rates. Call or text Sean (301) 471-9221.

Land & Farm Properties
Maryland • Delaware • Pennsylvania
Selling Horse Farms
for 40 years and counting
A. John Price
Patterson Price LAND & FARMS
A DIVISION OF
Patterson Schwartz REAL ESTATE
302-379-6318 888-909-FARM

Educating and conditioning the complete horse
Mind, Body & Spirit

WES CARTER TRAINING STABLE
803.664.4101 Bamberg, SC
WesCarterTraining@earthlink.net

Celebrating 40 Years!
STITCHES by Chloé
- Jockey Colors
- Blinkers
- Saddle Cloths
- Embroidery

Cathy Morse
(410) 562-5066
sttchsbychloe@hotmail.com
www.stitchesbychloe.net
Check us out on FaceBook

MTCP
The 2024 Maryland Thoroughbred Career Program June 3-7
See what this industry has to offer
Accepting applications through April 19
Learn more at marylandhorse.com/mtcp

— Classifieds —

BOARDING/FOALING/LAYUPS

DAYDREAM FARM: Hamburg, PA. Rehabs, layups and sales prep. Personalized care. Odyssey Proformance. Trainer on farm. Broodmares and foaling. Reasonable rates, references available. www.daydreamfarmpa.com. Call (610) 780-0972.

YOUR FOALS NEED STRONG BONE! Board your Thoroughbred broodmare at historic farm rich in limestone near Frederick, MD. Competitive rates. Call or text Sean (301) 471-9221.

Land & Farm Properties
Maryland • Delaware • Pennsylvania
Selling Horse Farms
for 40 years and counting
A. John Price
Patterson Price LAND & FARMS
A DIVISION OF
Patterson Schwartz REAL ESTATE
302-379-6318 888-909-FARM

Educating and conditioning the complete horse
Mind, Body & Spirit

WES CARTER TRAINING STABLE
803.664.4101 Bamberg, SC
WesCarterTraining@earthlink.net

Celebrating 40 Years!
STITCHES by Chloé
- Jockey Colors
- Blinkers
- Saddle Cloths
- Embroidery

Cathy Morse
(410) 562-5066
sttchsbychloe@hotmail.com
www.stitchesbychloe.net
Check us out on FaceBook

MTCP
The 2024 Maryland Thoroughbred Career Program June 3-7
See what this industry has to offer
Accepting applications through April 19
Learn more at marylandhorse.com/mtcp

— Looking Back —

WALTER M. BALL

50 years ago

■ Dr. A. Edward Verdi Jr., a Brooklyn-born dentist who got into Thoroughbreds due to his children's interest in horses, was rewarded when 3-year-old filly Kits Eve won Pimlico's Politely Stakes. The first stakes winner foaled at the Verdi family's 150-acre Edmarve Farm in Maryland's Frederick County, the filly was bred in the name of Edmarve and Mrs. Albert Lowenthal, whose husband bought a half-interest in the mare Kit's Play (by Ridan) when Verdi and his wife Marge picked her out of the 1970 Keeneland fall sale with Kits Eve in utero for $6,500.

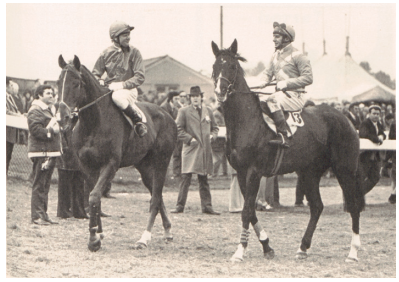
Kits Eve raced for Marylander Alfred Smith, who bought her as a yearling for $7,000 at the Eastern Fall sale. Said Verdi: "Kits Eve is the first stakes winner we've ever bred, and the first stakes winner on the flat ever owned by Mr. Smith. Of course Mr. Smith won lots of stakes with jumpers – his horse Tuscalee earned over $122,000. I only hope Kits Eve does as well."

Kits Eve died of forage poisoning later in the year without winning another stakes. But Verdi had found a gem of a producer in Kit's Play. On the farm the same year was the mare's yearling daughter by Spring Double, eventual graded stakes winner and Grade 1-placed Kit's Double. Sold as a 2-year-old for $15,500 at the Timonium May sale, she earned nearly $300,000, sold as a broodmare for $675,000 and produced graded winner Double Wedge. Bred back to Spring Double in 1974, Kit's Play produced multiple stakes winner and longtime Maryland sire Double Zeus. He was her final foal, as Edmarve lost the 11-year-old mare the following season due to foaling complications.

■ Four American-bred jumpers – Maryland-breds Inkslinger and Amarind and Virginia-breds Soothsayer and Tingle Creek – took on the Cheltenham three-day National Hunt meeting in England.

America had to wait until the last race on the last day for a win, when Soothsayer, a son of *Mystic II, won the Cathcart Challenge Cup.

In the first day's feature, the Two Mile Championship Steeplechase, "looked cut and dried" for Tingle Creek, a multiple stakes winner in the states who, since arriving in England, had won eight of 12, but disliked the soft ground and finished second. Inkslinger and Amarind fell during their runs in the Gold Cup and Two Mile Championship, respectively.



E.G. BYRNE

Amarind (left) and Mrs. Marion duPont Scott's steeplechase champion Soothsayer paraded at Cheltenham prior to the Cathcart Challenge Cup.

■ Extreme Tela became the first stakes winner for her sire Exceedingly, dam Telafilly, and breeders Irvin Fisher and Bonita Farm when she won Garden State Park's Dewdrop Handicap. The 3-year-old filly was from the first crop of Exceedingly, who stood at Bonita, and the first foal produced by her dam.

Maryland-bred champion Exceedingly was the first horse bred by Helen Jennings, and foaled at her Alder Branch Farm near Centreville, Md. Following her death the previous December, her husband, Capt. Lewis "Boots" Jennings, said he'd continue the operation.

75 years ago

■ A reprinted article from *The New Jersey Thoroughbred* by Preston Burch on "How to Pick a Yearling" was described by editor Humphrey Finney as "the best advice on selection of prospective racing material that we have ever read. The writer, for a great many years one of America's leading trainers, has long demonstrated his ability in the selection of young racing stock." While Burch started with, "Many good horsemen will agree with me that an article on how to pick a yearling should be prefaced with the remark, 'It just can't be done,' " he offered what he looked for – from bloodlines to conformation to movement.

■ One of Maryland's best known all-around sportsmen, William Labrot, passed away suddenly while visiting one of his company's creosote plants in Savannah, Ga. He was 48. The oldest son of the late Sylvester Labrot excelled as a yachtsman, fisherman and hunter. The Labrot family's farm, Holly Beach, known for producing greats such as Tred Avon, Toolbox, and Springsteel under the helm of the senior Labrot, had seen a "livening up of horse interest" – with 15 broodmares and a half-dozen or so horses in training with Danny Shea.

Last month, a donation to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation of 293 acres of the former Holly Beach property was approved. The waterfront property is an important staging and wintering area for migratory waterfowl as well as a nesting site for herons and bald eagles. A member of the Labrot family had owned a portion of the original 3,000-acre property through 2001.

10 years ago

■ The first appearance of California Chrome in *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* came following his win in Santa Anita's San Felipe Stakes-G2. "His name is California Chrome, but his female family is all Maryland (at least for two generations)." His dam was Maryland-bred mare Love the Chase (by Maryland stallion Not For Love), bred by Bowman and Higgins Stable. His second dam, bred by Tom and Chris Bowman, was Maryland-bred mare Chase It Down (by Polish Numbers).

■ The sixth annual report of the top 100 stallions ranked by their progeny's durability and soundness was released by The Jockey Club and Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation. Mid-Atlantic sires ranked high – first on the "Lifetime Percentage of Foals of Racing Age Started" was Petionville, with 668 foals of racing age and 85.78 percent starters. The 22-year-old stallion had recently moved to Murmur Farm in Darlington, Md., after standing for a time in Pennsylvania. Eighth on the list was Not For Love (82.41 percent).

Four stallions made the top 10 "Lifetime Starts per Starter" list, Wiseman's Ferry (second), Not For Love (sixth), Outflanker (eighth) and Petionville (ninth).

■ Bandbox, owned by Ellen Charles' Hillwood Stable, took the General George-G3 in his second start off a 17-month layoff, during which time he recovered from surgery to remove a chip from his sesamoid bone and an injury to his suspensory ligament.

■ The 2014 Maryland-bred Thoroughbred Hall of Fame added Breeders' Cup Classic-G1 winner Concern and National Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame member Tuscalee.

Concern's breeder, Robert Meyerhoff, earned additional accolades when recognized as Maryland's 2013 Breeder of the Year (for the 11th time). Meyerhoff-bred Perilous Night, the dam of two 2013 Meyerhoff-bred stakes winners (Delaunay and Night Officer), was Broodmare of the Year. And Not For Love took the Stallion of the Year title for a record 11th time in 12 years.

PATRICIA MCQUEEN

■ Princess of Sylmar was named Pennsylvania's Horse of the Year and champion 3-year-old filly. A finalist for an Eclipse Award, Ed Stanco's homebred won six of eight starts – four Grade 1s – and amassed $1,539,000 for the year.

25 years ago

■ Led by Virginia-born Secretariat, who ranked second only to Man o' War, a dozen Mid-Atlantic-breds appeared on *The Blood-Horse*'s list of the top 100 racehorses of the 20th century. In the top 50 were Maryland-breds Cigar, Challedon and Gallorette, ranked 18th, 38th and 45th, respectively.

■ Trainer Dick Dutrow, a Maryland native "whose career was world-class," died at 61.

Dutrow rose to prominence in his home state in the 1970s as one of the "big four," along with colleagues King T. Leatherbury, Bud Delp and John Tammaro Jr. In 1975, Dutrow's stable set a national record for wins with 352. He had 3,665 wins in all. Based in New York for more than a decade, he sent out such top class runners as Grade 1-winning sprinters King's Swan and homebred Lite the Fuse.

His son Tony Dutrow took over his stable, while sons Rick Dutrow Jr. and Chip Dutrow were trainers in New York and Maryland, respectively.

■ Win 3,000 was "looming boldly" for Charles Town jockey Larry Dupuy. At 44 years old, after riding for 27 years, booking his own mounts for about 12 of those, and overcoming a pair of open heart surgeries a decade earlier, Dupoy was a testament to dedication. Baltimore-born but raised in the Charles Town area, Dupuy was the second leading rider at Charles Town in 1998, winning at 18.7 percent and he hit the board 50.5 percent of the time.

Dupuy would reach 3,204 wins in a career that lasted through 2000.

■ Maryland's Stallion, Broodmare and Breeder of the Year for 1998 were announced, with stallion honors going to Polish Numbers, who topped all regional sires with $3.4 million in progeny earnings. Allen and Audrey Murray's stakes-winning Big Pride was the dam of three foals of racing age in 1998, all stakes performers, including graded winner Chip. Tom and Chris Bowman reached a high mark, taking their first honor as co-breeders of four stakes winners, topped by Polish Numbers' Grade 1-winning daughter Tenski.

■ Bet Twice, winner of the 1987 Belmont Stakes-G1, died of an apparent aneurysm at Robert Levy's Muirfield East in Chesapeake City, Md., where he was a pensioner since 1996. The son of Sportin' Life raced for Blanche Levy and Cisley Stable and trainer Jimmy Croll. In addition to his 14-length win in the Belmont over Cryptoclearance, Gulch and Kentucky Derby/Preakness winner Alysheba, he captured that season's Haskell Invitational-G1 and came back to win the revived Pimlico Special the next year. Retired to stud in Kentucky, he was moved to Maryland for 1994.

■ The 1998 auction recap highlighted Northview Stallion Station's Two Punch, who led Mid-Atlantic sires by average in all categories – weanlings ($51,750, four sold), yearlings ($66,333, 15 sold) and 2-year-olds ($137,556, nine sold). Six of the top 10 juveniles were by Two Punch.

The most expensive Mid-Atlantic-bred was the Pennsylvania-bred Storm Cat yearling High Yield, sold by Betty Moran's Brushwood Stable to Demi O'Byrne for $1.05 million.

The Last Saturday in April

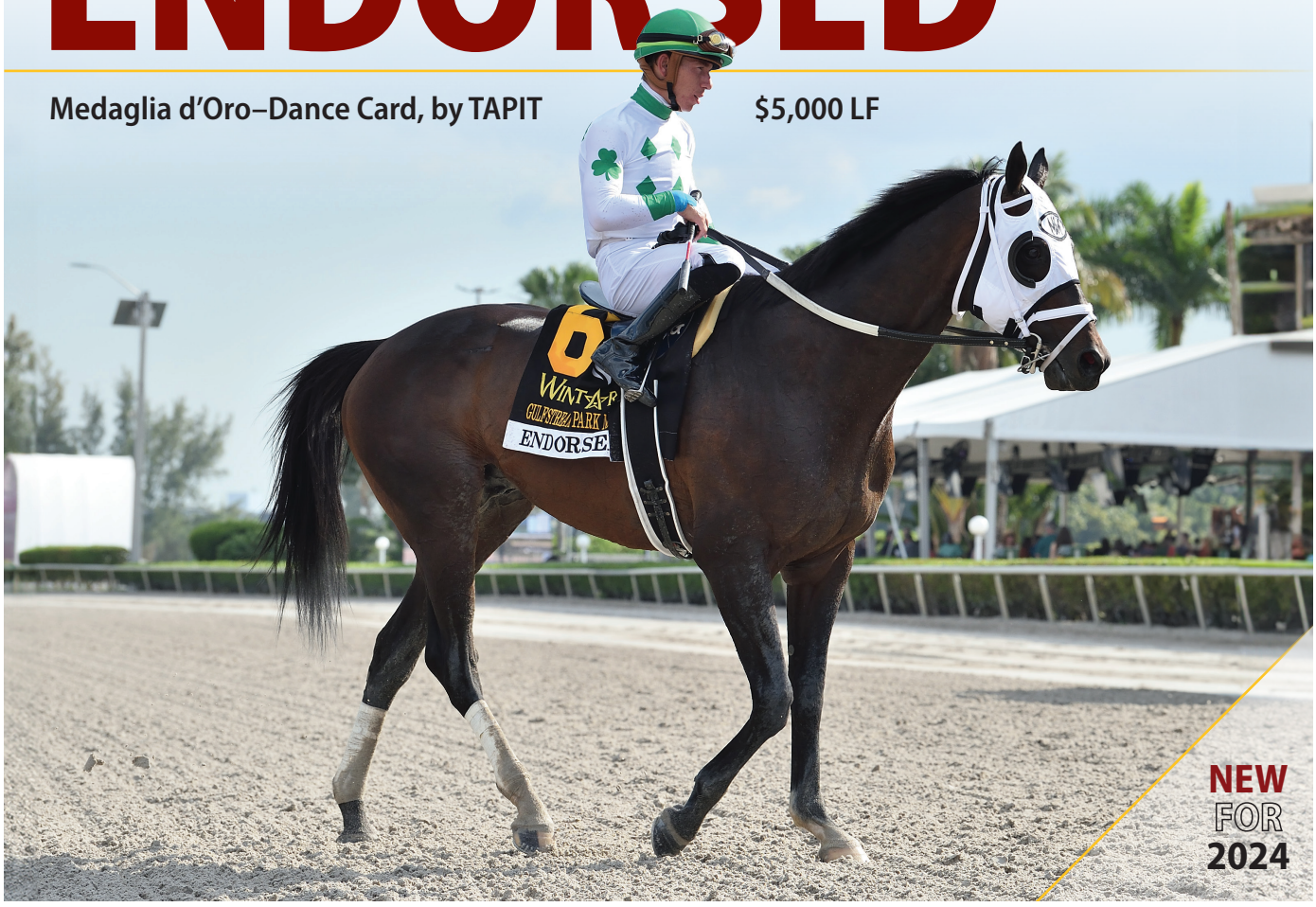
The oldest photo in the Maryland Horse Breeders Association archives showcases one of the state's great racing traditions. The 1922 Maryland Hunt Cup featured (from right) V.V. (ridden by John Bosley Jr.), Rumor (Janon Fisher Jr.), Whisper Belle (Daniel Brewster), The Comet (Francis Johnson), and second-place finisher Fox Hill (Albert Ober Jr.). None of the others in this photo finished the race, won by Oracle II, whose somewhat forgotten story is recounted in this magazine's *Steeplechase Times* section.

The 2024 Hunt Cup, the 127th running, is slated for April 27.

Multiple Graded SW 1/2-brother To 2023 Horse of the Year CODY'S WISH

ENDORSED

Medaglia d'Oro–Dance Card, by TAPIT $5,000 LF



NEW FOR 2024

WON Gulfstream Park Mile S.-G2 (101 Beyer) and Fred W. Hooper S.-G3, 2ND Mr. Prospector S.-G3, etc., earning $970,133

At 2:
Saratoga Maiden Special Weight **debut** winner, six furlongs (earning **89 Beyer**)

At 3:
Won seasonal debut at Gulfstream Park, six furlongs in **1:08 3/5**
In 2nd start: runner-up Saratoga's 1 1/8-mile Curlin S., 1 1/2 lengths back of Highest Honors on muddy track
In 3rd start: 4th **G1** Travers S. ahead of Owendale, Tax, Highest Honors, etc.

At 4:
Won a pair of allowance races, runner-up Westchester S.**-G3** (earning **100 Beyer**, 1/2 length back of G1 winner Code of Honor) and Alydar S.

1/2-Brother to Horse of the Year

CODY'S WISH

2023 Horse of the Year, Champion Older Dirt Male
Two-time winner of Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile-G1
Five-time Grade 1 winner

Out of Grade 1 Winner DANCE CARD

Won 1 1/8-mile **G1** Gazelle S. by four lengths
3rd Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint**-G1**, a length back of multiple Champion Groupie Doll in 2nd start of the year
Descends from the female line of La Troienne

By Leading Sire MEDAGLIA D'ORO

26 career G1 winners, including leading sires **VIOLENCE** and **BOLT D'ORO**
55 career $1 MILLION + sales horses
The Leading Active North American Sire by global stakes winners

Northview STALLION STATION

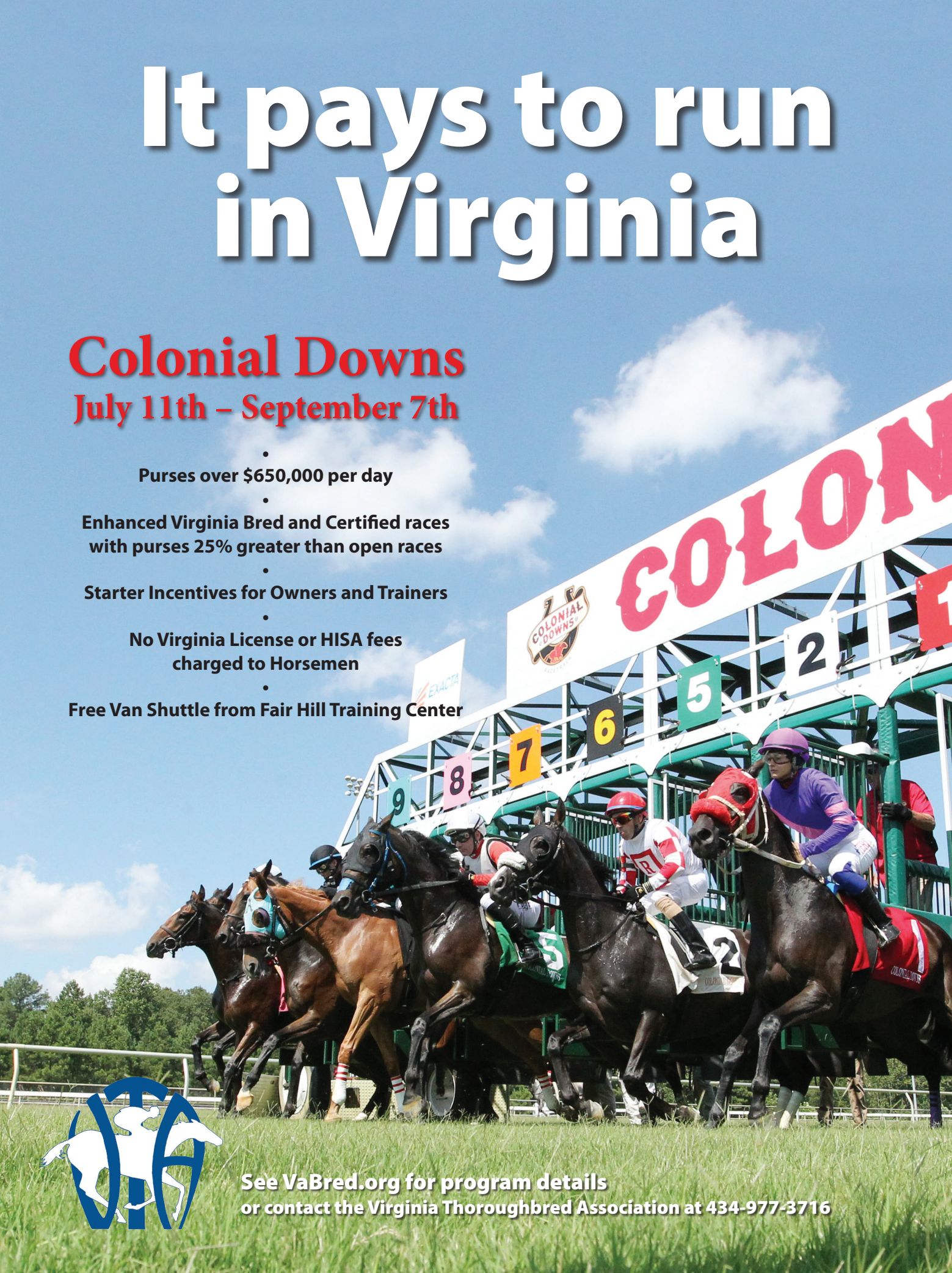
55 Northern Dancer Drive, Chesapeake City, MD 21915
northviewstallions.com

Linda Bench: 410.885.2855 | lbench@northviewstallions.com
Paul O'Loughlin: 443.566.2996 | paul@northviewstallions.com

It pays to run in Virginia

Colonial Downs
July 11th – September 7th

- Purses over $650,000 per day
- Enhanced Virginia Bred and Certified races with purses 25% greater than open races
- Starter Incentives for Owners and Trainers
- No Virginia License or HISA fees charged to Horsemen
- Free Van Shuttle from Fair Hill Training Center



See VaBred.org for program details
or contact the Virginia Thoroughbred Association at 434-977-3716